

THE GUARDIAN.

"HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD."

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POETRY.

MAN DIETH AND WHERE IS HE.

The spirit who can tell,
The mystery of its birth;
Or who explain the hidden chains,
Which bind it to the earth?

And when those chains dissolve,
Oh whither does it fly?
Are guardian angels ever near,
To bear it to the sky?

Or does it hover still,
Around the loved of earth?
Or slumber in the grave until
The Archangel calls it forth?

I asked the learned of earth,
Alas! they cannot tell;
They have not seen the spirit's home,
And know not where they dwell.

I asked the whispering breeze,
As it kissed the opening flowers;
It answered not, it had not breathed
Among the spirits' bowers.

The traveller returns
From earth's remotest strand;
But none have e'er come back to tell
Us of the spirit's land.

But see the shadows fly,
Which gathered round the tomb;
Rays from the Prophet's deathless page,
The darkness now illumine.

Thanks for the glorious truth,
By revelation given;
That when the spirit leaves the earth,
Its home is then in heaven.

V. G. M.

LITERATURE.

An Historical and Descriptive Account of British America. By Hugh Murray, F. R. S. E. Illustrated with Maps and Engravings, in three Volumes. Edinburgh, Oliver and Boyd. 1839.

These volumes form a part of the Edinburgh Cabinet Library; and contain such a vast fund of information with respect to one of the most important portions of the British Empire, as cannot fail to be extensively useful, as well as calculated to render the British Provinces in America somewhat better known in the Mother Country than they have hitherto been. Several works of a similar description have, within the last few years, been published at home; but written as they have been, far from the scenes which they describe and depending, as the authors and compilers of them necessarily must have done, upon the information and observation of others, it would be absurd to expect that they should not contain innumerable errors both in facts and reasoning. The present work having been got up in the same way with its predecessors, nothing could be more natural, than that it should participate in their faults. We must, however do the author the justice to say, that he appears to have spared no pains in obtaining authentic and correct information; and, certainly he has made a very judicious use of all that has fallen within his reach; so much so, indeed, that fraught as the present work is with inaccuracies of various kind and degrees, it is by far the best publication of the same description which has of late been given to the public. It was undertaken with the most laudable views; it was conceived in excellent taste; and displays so much good feeling, united with a tone of earnest solicitude to do every possible justice to the undertaking, that much ought to be forgiven, because nothing seems to be set down in malice, or with the fraudulent intention either to mislead or deceive the reader. Though not, therefore, the best possible guide that could be put into the hands of a stranger in quest of correct information with respect to British North America, its resources and prospects, yet we have no hesitation in recommending the volumes before us to public attention; being unquestionably one of the best works of the kind which we have hitherto perused. It is beautifully printed, and contains

illustrations of the Natural History of the Provinces, six maps, and ten engravings, which, though on a small scale, are nevertheless exceedingly accurate and well delineated.

In alluding more particularly to the contents of these volumes, we make the following extract from the preface because it contains an expression of fraternal feeling which does great credit to the author's goodness of heart, gives utterance to a sentiment, which, we have every reason to believe, is very prevalent in the Mother Country.

"These colonies, too, have acquired an augmented importance from the change effected in our own times. Their rich and varied products, their vast extent, and the strong direction which emigrants from Britain have taken towards their shores, encourage the expectation that they will one day become the seat of great nations, equalling or even surpassing the power of the mother-country. A deep interest is naturally felt in their future prospects more especially when connected with the numbers, amounting during the last twenty years to nearly half a million, who have removed thither from various parts of the United Kingdom. Hence it has happened that many among us who do not even know an individual in the adjacent country, find themselves bound, not by friendship only, but by the most intimate ties, with the dwellers in those transatlantic regions. All such persons must be desirous to receive information in regard to the capabilities of the country in which their friends are placed, and the hopes that may be entertained as to their future prosperity in that distant land. It may be added, that to the merchant and manufacturer, British America affords a market already very important, and susceptible of almost indefinite enlargement."

The first volume contains a general view of British America—an account of the native Indians—history of Canada, under the French and British—the Topography of Upper and Lower Canada—and an account of their Agriculture and local peculiarities. The chapters of the second volume are entitled, Commerce of the Canadas—Social State of Canada—Political State of Canada—General View of the Maritime Provinces—Description of Nova Scotia—the political State of that Province, as well as those of New Brunswick, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland.

In the third volume, we have a great deal of useful information on the important subject of immigration; but we regret that our limits will not admit of our entering upon so wide a field at the present moment. It will be sufficient to observe, that the volume contains an immensity of useful matter on this subject, well worthy of general attention; and that the tables of explanations and instructions which it affords to emigrants, are well calculated to promote a healthful system of emigration into the Colonies, provided that due encouragement be given to the scheme by the Imperial Government.—*Montreal Gaz.*

COLONIAL EMPIRE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The following tabular view of the Colonial Empire of Great Britain, may lead to serious reflection on the extent of our political relationships, and the fearful magnitude of our moral responsibility.

In North America.—Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, Cape Breton, and Newfoundland; containing an area of 435,000 square miles, or 279,400,000 acres, with a population of 1,500,000.

In South America.—Demerara, Essequibo, Berbice Honduras, and the Falkland Islands; containing an area of 165,000 square miles, or 105,600,000 acres with a population of 120,000.

In the West Indies.—Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent, Barbadoes, Monserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Arguilla, Tortola and the Virgin Isles, St. George's and the Bermuda Islands, containing an area of 13,000 square miles, or 7,720,000 acres, with a population of 1,000,000.

In Africa.—The Cape of Good Hope, Mauritius, Mahe, and the Seychelle Islands, St. Helena, Ascension, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Accra, Cape Coast, &c.; containing an area of 250,000 square miles, or 160,000,000 acres, with a population of 350,000.

In Australasia.—New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, Swan River, King George's Sound, South Australia, Norfolk Island, &c.; containing an area of 500,000 square miles, or 320,000,000 acres, with a population of 120,000.

In Asia.—Ceylon, containing an area of 24,644

square miles, or 11,771,160 acres, with a population of 1,000,000.

In Europe.—Gibraltar, Malta, Gozo, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Santa Maria, Ithaca, Paxo, Cerigo, &c. and Heligoland; containing an area of 15,000 square miles, or 1,000,000 acres, with a population of 400,000.

Total: 1,750,000 square miles, or 1,120,000,000 acres, with a population of 4,490,000 of "British subjects."

Independantly of the foregoing, we have to add the following territories, which are "under the management, and influenced by the government of the East India Company and the Board of Control, in Cannon Row?"—

British Territories in Hindostan.—Containing an area of 432,483 square miles, with a population of 80,636,371.

Tributary Territories in Hindostan.—Containing an area of 563,610 square miles, with a population of 54,271,092.

British Territories beyond Hindostan.—Containing an area of 50,117 square miles, with a population of 297,054.

Tributary Territories beyond Hindostan.—Containing an area of 50,000 square miles, with a population of 408,000.

Total:—1,096,210 square miles, with a population of 145,612,517.

THE CHURCH IN CANADA.

The Presbytery of Hamilton having, at their meeting in June last, appointed Wednesday, the 31st day of July, for the induction of the Rev. Duncan Macmillan; late of Caledon, into the Pastoral charge of the Presbyterian Congregation of Williams, in the London district, the following members of Presbytery accordingly met, on the day appointed, at Williams; viz. the Rev. Donald Mackenzie, Zorra; the Rev. William Mackillican, St. Thomas; and the Rev. Daniel Allen, Stratford and Woodstock, Moderator. The Moderator preached and presided. Mr. Mackillican addressed the Minister, and Mr. Mackenzie the people; the former in English, the latter in Gaelic. The attendance was numerous, and the universal satisfaction manifested on the occasion, by the people of Williams, was, in the highest degree, gratifying. It must be cheering to the friends of the Kirk, in general, but especially to those of them in this section of the country, to reflect that this is now the third settlement of a Minister which has taken place within the bounds of the Presbytery of Hamilton, within little more than eight months, and in all these cases, too, over new congregations.—*Toronto Colonist.*

A new church, in connection with the Church of Scotland, has recently been built in the sixth concession of Markham, by the laudable exertions of some resident inhabitants, whose liberality in contributing towards it, and aiding in other respects, has become conspicuous. The church was opened on the forenoon of Sunday, the 8th of this month, by the Rev. Mr. George, Minister of Scarborough. There is to be another church erected in Markham village, which, it is to be hoped, will soon be completed. This, with the one opened by Mr. George, presents an interesting sphere of labour for a resident Minister, and claims the immediate attention of the Presbytery.—*ib*

EDUCATION.

On Tuesday last a new school was opened in this town, under the auspices of the Rev. Robert McGill and the management of Mr. Webster—the system is new in this Province; but we have every reason to believe that example was required to bring it home to the senses of the community in order to its more general adoption. The system is known as that of Pestalozzi, and has been followed in various parts of the world. In Philadelphia, Boston, Halifax, and other large cities, it has succeeded wonderfully. Those parents who are wholly unable to give their children any education, are now afforded an opportunity, and the residents of the town are particularly invited to search for and recommend worthy objects of this charitable Institution, who will be received and instructed, without any charge. Those who are able to bear the expense, will find that the minds of children of very tender age are capable of being expanded and of receiving instruction from the system adopted; and we earnestly call upon the inhabitants generally, to encourage and support an institution which brings education into every house, and removes from the public streets many an idle child, mispending his valuable time, and readily acquiring every species of