

broken, and it must be honoured—die they or Justice must. At this there appeared a form from amongst the angelic band, like unto the Son of God, who addressing himself to Justice said, what are thy demands? Justice replied, my terms are stern and rigid; I must have sickness for their health, I must have ignominy for their honour, I must have death for life;—without shedding of blood there is no remission. Justice, said the Son of God, I accept the terms; on me be this wrong, and let Mercy enter. When, said Justice, will you perform this promise? Jesus replied—four thousand years hence on the Hill of Calvary, without the gates of Jerusalem I will perform it in my own person. The deed was prepared and signed in the presence of the Angels of God; Justice was satisfied, and Mercy entered, preaching Salvation in the name of Jesus. The deed was committed to the Patriarchs; by them to the Kings of Israel and to the Prophets; by them it was preserved till Daniel's seventy weeks were accomplished; then at the appointed time Justice appeared on the Hill of Calvary, and Mercy presented to him the important deed. Where said Justice, is the Son of God? Mercy answered, behold him at the bottom of the Hill, bearing his own cross. Then she departed and stood aloof. At the hour of trial, Jesus ascended the Hill, while in his train followed the weeping Church; Justice immediately presented him the deed, saying, this is the day on which this bond is to be executed.—When he received it, did he tear it in pieces and give it to the winds of Heaven? No, he nailed it to his cross, exclaiming "it is finished." Justice called on holy fire to come down and consume the sacrifice, holy fire descended, it swallowed his humanity, but when it touched his Deity, it expired—and there was darkness over the whole heavens, but glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to man.

Then said the Welshman, this is but a specimen of Christmas Evans.

THE GUARDIAN.

HALIFAX, N. S. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1839.

MADNESS OF THE HEART.

Were any one seriously to assert that the world was but a large mad-house, the loud, unrestrained, and universal laugh with which the assertion would, in all likelihood, be greeted, would clearly demonstrate that he who could hazard an assertion, which to the hearers, appeared so pre-eminently ridiculous, was, in their opinion, one of the most insane persons in it. Many important truths, however, have, ere now, been denounced, with equal confidence, as absurdities no less preposterous; and it may not therefore be altogether unprofitable, to test the correctness of the assertion, by examining the tendency of some of those objects which men pursue for the attainment of that felicity, of which all profess to be in search.

Whoever beholds the *Drunkard*, purchasing that temporary delirium which he calls happiness, by dethroning his reason, by the hopeless anguish of his sober moments, by the sacrifice of property, reputation and self-esteem, by the wretchedness of his wife and the destitution of his offspring, with the prospect of terminating a life of degradation, by a premature and unlamented death, must surely allow that the mirth of such a fool is—

"moody madness,
Laughing wild amid severest woe."

Neither, surely, can he be considered of sound mind, who, whether avowedly or not, adopts as his principle of action "Let us eat and drink for to-morrow we shall die;" and pampers a body for the worms, regardless of the fate of his immortal part; much less the votary of *sensual lust*; any one, in short, who seeks happiness in the gratification of those appetites which he has in common with the brute.

A similar estimate, we doubt not, will be formed of the *Miser*, who denies himself the comforts of life, that he may scrape together, with much toil and pain, that wealth which, useless to him during life, he cannot carry beyond the grave; although "the rust of it," we are assured, "shall hereafter be a witness against him, and shall eat his flesh as it were fire." Nor can the *Prodigal* be considered more sane who lavishes, in thoughtless profusion, the inheritance which the industry and frugality of his progenitors had accumulated.

Those who place their happiness in the *frivolities of Dress, and the ostentation of their persons*, might be reminded of "the lilies of the field," and that:

"—— a Butterfly at best,
Is but a Caterpillar dress;"

and those who fly to the haunts of dissipation and idleness, to kill time, as it is expressed, would do well to remember that, even in this life the ghosts of their murdered hours will haunt them; and that hereafter for every moment misimproved, they must render a fearful account.

What shall we say of the *Hypocrite* who, by his endeavours to appear what he is not, confesses the beauty, the dignity, the necessity of virtue; yet contents himself with drawing around him a mantle, which, notwithstanding all his care and all his art, is far too deficient in amplitude to conceal his defects from his fellow mortals, much less from the eyes of him "who searches the hearts and tries the reins of the children of men?" Surely the folly of the hunted Ostrich, which hides its head in a bush, but leaves its body exposed, is wisdom, compared to this!

[To be Concluded.]

STATE FASTS AND THANKSGIVINGS.

We are highly delighted to find, that even in the United States of America, where there is no National Establishment of Religion, and where open and avowed infidelity is lamentably prevalent, Statesmen and Legislators are still to be found, sufficiently enlightened and patriotic to see the necessity and propriety of publicly acknowledging and worshipping Jehovah themselves, and at the same time calling upon their fellow citizens, in the character of civil rulers, to join with them as collective bodies, in the same devotional services. There is something truly grand and impressive, and affecting in the appearance of an immense multitude, the inhabitants of a whole Province, or Nation, like the ancient Jews at the dedication of Solomon's Temple, and at Hezekiah's Passover, all uniting with one heart and soul in the same acts of worship, to the exalted and glorious Governor among the nations.

The appointment of certain days for public Fasting and Thanksgiving and Prayer, although the inhabitants of an extensive and populous district cannot all assemble at the same spot, are certainly seasons of no ordinary solemnity, and ought to be strictly and religiously observed by all classes in the community. In the latest American papers which we have received, our attention has been directed to three of these Religious Anniversaries in different States of the Union. The Governor of the State of South Carolina had by Proclamation set apart Monday the 11th of Nov. to be observed throughout that State as a day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer. The Governor of the State of New-York, had by the authority of the Legislature and with the consent of the people, appointed Thursday, the 28th of Nov. to be observed throughout that large and populous State, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Prayer, for the abundant blessings bestowed upon the inhabitants of that portion of the Union, and for the good success which has attended their efforts for developing the resources of the country, for the relief of the unfortunate, the reformation of the vicious, the improvement of Education, the cultivation of Science, the perfection of the Arts, and the maintenance of the Christian Religion. And the Governor of the State of Ohio, has also issued his Proclamation appointing Saturday the 14th of Dec. to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to God, for the many blessings enjoyed by the people of that State, and of the nation at large.

It would be difficult to express too favourable an opinion of such public and solemn religious observances, as these now mentioned, since they not only indicate, but also preserve and increase the tone of pious feeling, and the influence of Christian principles among the great mass of the population in these extensive territories. And ought not the same pious feelings to be cherished, and the same Christian zeal to be manifested amongst ourselves? When we re-

fleet upon the numerous blessings which our bountiful Preserver has conferred, and is still conferring upon the inhabitants of this Province; when we think of the rich Harvest which has been safely gathered in, and the delightful weather which we have so long enjoyed; when we attend to the success of our Fisheries, the flourishing state of our Revenue and Commerce, the peace and contentment which prevail in our Society, and above all when we take a devout review of the high and distinguished blessings of Education, and Religion, which we still enjoy, we can discern sufficient reason, as individuals, as Families, as Congregations, and as a united people, for joining together in an ardent ascription of Praise and Thanksgiving to the author of all our mercies, and in yielding our bodies and spirits as willing and as living sacrifices to his service.

We lately published an Address to Congregations, by a Committee of the United Associate Synod, "Respecting a fund to aid in liquidating the debt of weak Congregations, and in erecting places of Worship." Under the head of "Distinguished Liberality," in our present number, it will be seen how the call has been responded to, by at least, one Congregation in the Secession Church. May this serve as an admonition to many in this Province, and elsewhere, to "go, and, as God hath prospered them, do likewise."

DESECRATION OF THE SABBATH.

The Synod of Philadelphia have enjoined it on all the pastors and stated supplies under their care, to preach on the subject of the Christian Sabbath, at some time during the year; and on all the ministers, elders and members of churches under their care, to pay special attention to the sanctification of the Sabbath, and avoid all secular employments, travelling and visiting. They put it to the consciences of all officers and members of churches, whether, if they cannot prevent the desecration of the Sabbath by boats or vehicles, or other species of property in which they are interested, they ought not to withdraw from the companies having the control of their stock; and they enjoin it on the sessions of the churches to do their duty in this matter, and exercise discipline when called for. They request also editors of religious newspapers and periodicals, to call the attention of the churches to this subject, and invite their correspondents to aid them in this work.

Why are there not more energetic movements in every department of Zion in relation to the alarming and increasing profanation of the Lord's day? Not a single vice stalks abroad more unblushingly; not one threatens our country more seriously, nor one is so little discountenanced by Christians at large.—*Boston Recorder*.

We observe from the London Gazette, that Dr. Lee has resigned the Secretaryship to the Bible Printing Board for Scotland, lately conferred upon him; and that Her Majesty has appointed to that office Dr. Welsh, Professor of Church History in the Edinburgh University.—*Edinburgh Adv.*

INVERNESS ACADEMY.—We understand that a new Rector has been recommended to the Royal Academy here. A majority of the Directors of the institution some time ago, consulted Lords Moncreiff and Cockburn as to the appointment of a rector, and pledged themselves to support the person recommended by the learned lords. Seventeen candidates came forward from which a list of four was selected and of these four the choice of the learned lords ultimately fell upon Mr. Gray, formerly lecturer on Natural Philosophy and Mathematics in Glasgow, afterwards teacher of those branches in the Dollar Institution, and recently professor in the University of New-Brunswick. There seems no doubt that Mr. Gray, will be rector, and we wish him a long career of usefulness and prosperity in our Highland capital.—*Inverness Herald*.

POLITICAL SUMMARY.

The intelligence by the British Queen, did not reach Halifax till after a portion of our last No. had gone through the Press. She had a passage of 22 days from Portsmouth, and during the last week encountered very bad weather.

Parliament had been further prorogued to the 24th December. The Money Market in London was still depressed; the consequence had been a decline in prices, and reduced employment, in the manufactu-