

around us, solid, firm, impermeable, has been in its day, from root to leaf, but water, gases and vapour, and is still but a channel for their passage, the passage by which its existence is continued, its growth fostered, its death in due time obtained and its reproduction secured.

THE FOREST IS A RIVER.

"Deep around its interlacing roots the joining waters fill everywhere the land, they separate, they mount in every trunk continually in upward flowing streams, they separate again in their course to every branch and every leaf, they again separate in their passage to the outward air through the thousand openings in these; they join the air, they form a dense and vapour-saturated atmosphere above the forest top, above the whole far-spreading and wind-tossed sea of glittering leaves, and they rise perpetually a body of innumerable tons of invisible water, cool and damp from the forest depths, to meet the coming south-west wind bearing its liquid treasures fresh from the warm equatorial region, treasures of moisture rich as that of the forest exhalation, far more extensive but far more heated than theirs. They meet, and the junction of the differently heated masses necessarily precipitates both in rain; it falls to the ground, it may pass by innumerable channels to the distant ocean, it may rise to the nearer atmosphere through wheat, through grass, through forest leaf again. Every forest is an immense fountain of water rising perpetually from earth to sky, falling ever from sky to earth again."

We ask our readers to secure this Report; it is as varied and as charming as its subject, and reflects the highest credit upon our brother Churchman's literary gifts.

THE PERFECT LOVE.

We are so familiar with the statement of God's love to men that it scarcely strikes us as at all remarkable; yet, when thoughtfully and believingly considered, nothing is more wonderful. Had we remained unfallen and pure, like the angels before the throne, a warm and complacent kindness on his part might not have seemed strange; but our condition being the very reverse of all this—fallen, alienated, depraved, and utterly repellent to affection, instead of attractive—we may well marvel at the grace of it, and say, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us."

Usually in creature affection there is something in the objects of it to call it forth. But there was nothing of this kind in our case; for we are expressly told over and over again that it was when we were enemies and ungodly, unloving and unlovable, that God showed his love to us. Now, it is of this love, and not of ours, that John speaks when he says, "Perfect love casteth out fear." It would be poor comfort to tell us that if we loved God perfectly, with all our heart and strength and mind, this would cast out fear; for how can we either kindle or sustain in our souls a love like this? The thing is utterly beyond us. But as one has sweetly said—"The Father is the Perfect One: his knowledge is perfect knowledge, his power is perfect power, and his love is perfect love; and just as the sunbeams cast out the darkness wherever they fall, so does this love cast out fear."

We cannot say of any saint, however eminent, that he is "love"; we cannot say that even of John, the most loved and loving of the twelve. But John emphatically says this of God—"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Not only so; but in all the unfoldings of it, from first to last, God's love is seen to be, not

merely forgiving and tender and full of sympathy, but without variableness or shadow of turning; for his own gracious assurance is—"The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee."

Nay, more: besides setting forth his love, he longs that we should fully open our hearts for the reception and enjoyment of it. "I have declared unto them," said our Lord, "thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." "O that Christ," said a saintly man, "would but open up the infinite plies and windings of his soul-delighting love, and give me leave to stand beside it, to get my fill of wondering as a preface to my fill of enjoying!"

NO KING REWARDS THE LOYAL LIKE CHRIST.

If, in ordinary circumstances, none are so poor as to be unable to present to the needy a cup of cold water; on the other hand, scarcely any are so rich as to gift away a crown. So great is the power of the Lord Jesus, however, and so unbounded his resources, that he makes promise of crowns to those who loyally serve him more freely than we can make promise of the commonest things. "Christ," says Thomas Brooks, "is a noble and liberal paymaster, and no small things can fall from so great a hand as his." Moreover, his love being as infinite as his power, he not merely can do this, but in the fulness of time will do it; for to each individual believer his word is this: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." This crown has many notable peculiarities.

First of all, it is a purchased crown. Before the Redeemer could confer it on his people, he had first to win it for them, by himself wearing a crown of thorns, and dying a death of agony: this of itself will ever give to it an unspeakable preciousness in their eyes.

Further, it is a crown that will never sadden the wearer. Usually on earth a crown brings so many cares and anxieties with it, that the emblem of King Henry the Seventh was deemed a fitting one—"A crown in a bush of thorns;" and the poet's saying has passed into a proverb, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." But it is not so with the crown of life. The moment it is put upon the head, sorrow and sighing will flee for ever away; and thus, for gladness and rejoicing, the final crowning day will be the very day of days to all the redeemed.

Again, it is a crown that never fades. In ancient times crowns were frequently given as rewards to those who excelled in racing or wrestling; and they were prized so highly, that there was scarcely anything men would not do or endure to obtain them. Yet, at the best, they were nothing more than mere fading wreaths of laurel or of pine. But the crown the Lord holds out in promise never fades; for, being a crown of life, it is as imperishable in its nature as in the end will be the redeemed who wear it.

Nor can they ever be despoiled of it. In a world of change like ours, we can count securely on nothing; even crowns and kingdoms are often lost just like other things. But, happily, come what may, believers can never lose their crown, for it is to be worn where enemies never enter, and revolutions are unknown, and love and joy unutterable grow in every heart. Verily, then, what manner of persons ought believers now to be in all holy conversation and godliness? "Oh, thrice

fools are we," said one, "who, like new-born princes in the cradle, know not that there is a kingdom before them!"

EXHIBITION NOTES.

Canada's great fair has come and gone under very favorable auspices as regards weather, visitors, entertainments, and finance. While still a far from perfect organization, we believe under the able management of those who control its details, and with the experience gathered each returning year, it will still extend and improve.

Several of our advertisers make a prominent show in the various departments, and we gladly note their excellencies and their success.

TORONTO SILVER PLATE Co., King street.—This newly organized branch of manufacture send a beautifully arranged and exquisitely finished display of goods, the more creditable from the fact that it is a quite new industry in Toronto, and from the show made only one inference can be drawn—the able managing director, Mr. Watts, must have surrounded himself with a talented staff of foremen and skilled workers in the various branches of the trade. The case, which is of handsome design, was placed near the fountain in the central building, and contains specimens of nearly every branch of their manufacture (not specially prepared for the Exhibition), epergnes, vases, tea sets, presentation cups, cake baskets, cruets, &c., chaste in design and beautifully finished. The cut and engraved glass dishes are furnished from Belgium, and other parts of Europe, brilliant in quality and harmonizing perfectly with the metal work. Of presentation cups, that given by the Q.O.R.V. to the Dufferin Rifles through Col. Otter, is worthy of note; also the cup presented to the bugle band of the former regiment, both being unique in design and finish. A very costly and elaborate epergne, presented to Mr. Gooderham by his family, also was worthy of special note for its beautiful design and brilliancy of finish. The hand engraving upon this, and several other specimens in the case was worthy of a patient examination. This excellent collection received the gold and silver medals of the Association. A visit to the show-rooms of the Company at their King street factory would well repay the time bestowed.

PETLEY & PETLEY.—This enterprising and successful firm had a very well selected and choice exhibit in the gallery of the main building. They showed a case of bonnets, hats, and millinery, for which they received a silver medal, an excellent display of carpets, and a well-arranged exhibit of men's and boy's clothing, receiving for the latter three prizes.

MESSRS. D. S. KEITH & Co., King street West, exhibited on their stand an excellent display of gasaliers, pendants, brackets, &c., together with a great variety of articles requisite in fitting up mansions or public buildings, also plumber work, &c., all shewing excellence of workmanship and appropriateness of design.

H. & C. BLACHFORD, boot-makers, King street East.—This well-known firm sent a neatly-arranged case of ladies' and misses' shoes embroidered in silk, satin, &c., together with walking shoes and boots, maintaining their high character for workmanship and material.

MESSRS. ARMSON & STONE, King street West.—This firm exhibit a case containing a very fine display of laces, satins, silks (figured and plain), rich in colours and design; also a very choice selection of flowers, ribbons, buttons, trimmings, &c.

DINEEN'S FUR OPENING.—We direct our readers' attention to the opening of the large Show Rooms of W. & D. Dineen, Fur Merchants on the Corner of King and Yonge Sts., where they exhibit during the Fair the Season Stock of Rich and Costly Furs, consisting of Ladies' Seal-skin Dolmans, Mantles, and Ulsters, Circulars lined with Fur, Costly Fur Hats and Bonnets, Fur trimmings &c., &c. Gentlemen's Fur Coats, Gloves and Gauntlets. One of the great attractions during the Exhibition is a visit to this extensive establishment.

The wisest of men once said, "There is nothing new under the sun;" had he lived in our day he would hardly have ventured such a statement, especially if he had seen the latest and choicest Novelty in Silver Spoon work, viz., "The Fontainebleau," it is a most exquisite production of the Silversmith's Art, and can be found at Woltz Bros. & Co's., 29 King Street East.