

Poetry.

HYMN OF THE UNIVERSE.

PARAPHRASED FROM GOETHE.

Roll on, thou sun! for ever roll,
Thou giant, rushing through the heaven,
Creation's wonder, nature's soul!
Thy golden wheels by angels driven;
The planets die without thy blaze,
And cherubim with star-dropt wing
Float in thy diamond sparkling rays,
Thou brightest emblem of their King!

Roll, lovely earth! and still roll on,
With ocean's azure beauty bound:
While one sweet star, the pearly moon,
Pursues thee through the blue profound;
And angels with delighted eyes
Behold thy tints of mount and stream,
From the high walls of Paradise;
Swift whirling like a glorious dream.

Roll, Planets! on your dazzling road,
For ever sweeping round the sun;
What eye beheld when first ye glowed?
What eye shall see your courses done?
Roll in your solemn majesty,
Ye deathless splendours of the skies!
High altars, from which angels see
The incense of creation rise.

Roll, Comets! and ye million Stars!
Ye that through boundless nature roam;
Ye monarchs on your flame-wing'd cars!
Tell us in what more glorious dome,
What orb to which your pomps are dim,
What kingdom but by angels trod—
Tell us where swells the eternal hymn
Around his Throne—where dwells your God.

THE WESLEYAN.

Halifax, Saturday Morning, January 11, 1851.

BENEFITS OF RELIGIOUS BIOGRAPHY.

In the well authenticated experience of individuals, eminent for piety, we have placed before us, in meridian brightness, the visible manifestations of the powerfully operating and renewing influence of Divine Grace on the human mind, and an irrefragable proof of the *Divine origin* of our most holy religion. Infidels may unreasonably cavil at the external claims put forth in behalf of the celestial character of Christianity, and absurdly repudiate them on the ground of their not being supported by the evidence of *mathematical demonstration*,—a species of evidence totally irrelevant to the nature of the subject to be substantiated: but in the living experience of the humble followers of Christ, in the radical change effected in their hearts,—a change exhibited in holy affections and desires, a chaste, and well-ordered conversation, and a conduct, free from the prevalent and reigning sins of the day, in many instances presenting the most striking contrast to that which had once and for many years been characteristic of the parties—and adorned with the beauteous assemblage of various and acknowledged virtues,—is presented a species of evidence in favour of the divine character of the Christian religion, which will successfully resist the puny attacks of ten thousand *deistical* assailants, and “put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”

That such changes as those to which we have just referred, have been effected, cannot be denied, as they are matter of public notoriety: but the cause of them is attributed by sceptics to any other than to the real one. The influence of Divine Grace, as the result of the *true and proper atonement* of our ever adorable Lord Jesus Christ, employed in changing and sanctifying the human heart, and producing holy principles, which eventuate in a *godly conversation* and life, is something which they studiously exclude in whole or in part, from their creed; and therefore as a legitimate consequence, the religious transformation of internal and external character and deportment, with which the world has abounded and still abounds, are to be accounted for, in their view, only on *natural* principles.—The cause thus assigned is, however, inadequate to the production of the effect.

For example, let us take the case of Saul of Tarsus. He was a bitter enemy of Christianity, and was qualified by natural and acquired abilities to wage a successful warfare against Christianity had it been only a fable. Into a consideration of the entire history of this subsequently distinguished man, it is not now necessary to enter. One thing is evident—he became a Christian, and one of the most able and successful champions of the very cause he had previously

so assiduously laboured to destroy. Was this change the mere effect of the operation of natural causes or principles? Let the whole case, in all its bearings, be considered, and we hesitate not to say, that the idea that it was, is stamped with the grossest absurdity, and that nothing short of the exercise of a divine power upon his heart could have produced the wondrous change. So also in the case of the primitive Christians, and believers of modern times. The changes in these were such, that to have originated them, no human, and merely moral or intellectual motives or principles were at all competent, and the true cause must be sought in the divine energy of the Holy Spirit, for the operation of which in the heart and life of the sincere and penitent believer, rich provision has been made in the sacrifice of Christ our Saviour, and which is distinctly made the subject of many gracious promises.

This change in the hearts and lives of individuals through the instrumentality of the Apostles in preaching the glorious Gospel of the ever-blessed God, was often appealed to by the Apostles, not only in confirmation of their own true ministerial character, but as a proof that such change was effected primarily by the “Spirit of the living God” only. “Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you? *Ye are our epistles*, written in your hearts, *known and read of all men*: forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistles of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God: not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.” Real conversions, with their subsequent proper fruits, afford, therefore, a species of proof, that ought to satisfy every considerate person of the genuineness of the Christian religion: for, the power to produce them belongeth only unto God. To the immediate subjects of these changes no evidence can be stronger or more satisfactory. It is brought within the province of their own consciousness. They know what they *once were*—they know what they *now are*—they know the means by which this mighty change has been accomplished—they have the *witness in themselves* that they “*are born again of the Spirit*” and “*created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works*.” These are matters of personal experience, personal consciousness, and the effort might as rationally be made to argue them out of the consciousness of their own existence, as to argue them out of the firm conviction of the reality of the spiritual change through which they have passed, and by which their condition with God has been both relatively and actually altered.

“What we have felt and seen,
With confidence we tell;
And publish to the sons of men
The signs infallible.”

In this point of view, the value of Religious Biography is incalculable, affording a *continued proof* of the divinity of the CHRISTIAN SYSTEM. It has other practical and beneficial uses. It is profitable to the *Christian believer*, serving frequently to animate his hope, quicken his desires, and stimulate to increased activity, whilst pursuing his celestial journey. It also affords comfort and encouragement to the *sincere penitent*, as it presents to his view the method which others have successfully adopted in obtaining “*peace with God*,” detailed in the minutest manner, and brought before him with all the freshness of actual life. Nor should it be forgotten, that Religious Biography has, not unfrequently, been the means employed by INFINITE WISDOM and GOODNESS, to arrest the *careless, indifferent sinner* in “*the error of his way*,” and turn his wandering feet to the “*testimonies of the just*”—thus advancing the spiritual and eternal good of men, and contributing to the promotion of the glory of God.

WESLEYAN CHURCH ACCOMMODATION.

The Wesleyans of this City have for some past felt the necessity of obtaining Church accommodation farther South than the *Zoar* Chapel situated in Argyle Streets in order to meet the wants of the population in that growing part of the City. Under the wise and judicious management of the zealous Superintendent, the Rev. EPHRAIM EVANS, an Official Meeting, called for the purpose, has determined to erect with as little delay as possible, a commodious Church on the lot of land already in possession of the

Trustees, formerly used as a Cemetery. The site is considered by many as very eligible for the contemplated Edifice, which, when erected, will prove quite accommodating to our friends residing at the South end of the City. Subscription lists have been passed round, and a very encouraging response has been given to the appeal made to christian liberality. Several individuals have signed the handsome sum of *one hundred pounds* each—some *fifty*, some *twenty-five*—and one generous friend has subscribed the noble sum of *Two hundred and fifty pounds*. At present the amount promised is about eleven hundred pounds. We cordially approve of the object in view, and give the project our heartiest recommendation. Pleased indeed shall we be to learn, that the required sum has been pledged by good men and true, and we shall be equally gratified to witness in the Spring or Summer the ceremonies connected with the laying the corner-stone of this intended Temple for the worship of Almighty God.

FREDERICTON BAZAAR.

We beg leave to call the attention of the LADIES, and others, of Halifax, to the intended Bazaar to assist in re-building the Wesleyan Chapel in Fredericton, New Brunswick. We need not dwell on the great loss our friends there have sustained by the destruction of their large Chapel and comfortable Mission House by the recent calamitous fire. The fact is well known, and, doubtless, has already awakened sympathy in many breasts. Assistance may be given by the Ladies of this City by preparing and furnishing articles suitable for the contemplated Bazaar. The Rev. Wm. Temple, the present Superintendent of the Fredericton Circuit, and his amiable Lady, are well known in this community; and whilst we would not willingly interfere with the claims of any other member of the Committee, the names of which we have already published, we are authorized to say, that Mrs. TEMPLE will be happy to receive for her Table any articles which may be kindly forwarded from this City. We hope something handsome will be realized from the sale of articles which shall be furnished by our friends in Halifax. The appeal for aid in this extremity is not limited necessarily to Ladies, but gentlemen, disposed to assist, may through us or any of our Ministers transmit donations, which will be very gratefully received.

ENCOURAGING.

Owing to the exertion of respected brethren our list of subscribers continue to increase. We are advancing towards the completion of the (additional) fourth hundred. A little more effort on the part of the brethren interested would accomplish all that was expected. We hope to enter upon the New Year with *five hundred* new subscribers. But don't mistake, friends! The Editor of *The Wesleyan* cannot truthfully write thus—we wish he could. We congratulate the Editor of the *Toronto Christian Guardian*, the official organ of the Wesleyan-Methodist Church in Canada, whose language we have quoted above, on his pleasing prospects. The wider the circulation of well-conducted Religious Journals, the better for the cause of truth and righteousness, and the more reasonable the hopes entertained for the solid prosperity of the Church of God, and for the advancement of evangelical principles in the world. May the utmost desires of our deserving cotemporary be speedily realized, in a still greatly enlarged list of paying subscribers! We hold up the example of our Canadian brethren as worthy of imitation by the Wesleyans of the lower Provinces. Our list is slowly, and we trust, surely increasing. Monday's Mail last brought us a Note from our Agent at Parrsboro, with an order for papers for *five* new subscribers, as his proportion of our *New Year's gift*.—We give him our cordial thanks; and, as one good turn deserves another, we should be glad to receive from him shortly, an order for five more! Could not all our Agents do the same? Will they try? *The Wesleyan* will become all the stronger and the more vigorous, should such be the case. We might as well speak to some hundreds more as not. It elevates one's mind to address a large audience, and the same principle doubtless influences Editors to a considerable extent. We feel thankful for the patronage

extended to us as religious Journalists, and are resolved to fail in no effort to deserve it, as far as our humble abilities, good intentions, and unremitting application to the interests of the paper, will enable us to do. Come, brethren, see what you can do in giving a wider circulation to your official organ. Subscribers, also, may render us valuable assistance by recommending *The Wesleyan* to their friends and neighbours. In making this appeal, considerations of personal advantage have no place, as they have no foundation. We are anxious to extend the sphere of usefulness, and believe this object will be in some measure realized by an enlargement of the circulation of *The Wesleyan*, whose varied contents are calculated to please, and, under the divine blessing, to profit the reader. We can supply back numbers; but application should be made without delay.

Several complete sets of Vol. I., can be supplied, unbound at 10s., and bound, at 13s. 9d. each. We shall be glad to receive orders.

For some days past the weather has been extremely cold. The sleighing is good, which is so far favourable like the preceding was for farmers and others, who have occasion to use the roads. It is probable we shall have at the commencement of winter our severest weather, which, as so much of it has already been experienced, we hope will prove to be the case.

The long winter evenings are favourable to mental improvement. Those who are fond of reading should now indulge their propensity, and improve their intellects.

Our City at present is teeming with Lectures on a variety of useful and entertaining subjects. Persons who have leisure, and means at their disposal, would do well to improve the golden opportunities as they occur.

Judge Marshall delivered his second Lecture at Temperance Hall, last evening. The Judge has a vast stock of the most important information on hand, gathered during his recent visit to the Old Country, and which he intends to deal out with a liberal hand. The public should make their appearance on the occasions of the Judge's Lectures. They will not fail of being agreeably entertained, if knowledge be entertaining, and profitably instructed, if the experience of other, and older countries, can impart useful lessons.

Hon. Mr. McCully delivered an interesting Lecture on Wednesday evening last at Mechanics' Institute:—Subject—“*Progression*.”

The world is very busy just now. Important matters are under serious consideration. So intent is it in pursuing its march of improvement, that, like time, it cannot stand still for a minute. Where will it be a century hence?

The Provincial Secretary has sent out from London two letters, addressed to the Deputy P. S., to be laid before His Excellency, on the subject of his mission. Nothing definite has as yet been arrived at, but negotiations are going on, which may result favourably to the great and important enterprise. For the sake of the Province we hope this may be the case. C. Archibald Esqr., now in England, the *Chronicle* states has written to his friends here in encouraging terms of the prospects of the delegation.

The Ladies of Poplar Grove Presbyterian Church held a Soiree in the basement story of that Church on Wednesday evening last. It was altogether a creditable affair.

FOREIGN OFFICE, Dec. 11, 1850.—The Queen has been pleased to approve Mr. Thos. Ritchie Grassie, as Consul at Halifax, Nova Scotia, of His Majesty the King of Prussia.

The American steamer *Baltic*, which left Liverpool on the 14th December, for New York, put into Provincetown on Saturday evening last. The Mail by her for this city was received on last Monday evening.

We have been informed that the Hon. Samuel Cunard, the Proprietor and Agent of the line of Atlantic Steamers, bearing his name, has generously offered to convey the productions of his native Province, intended for the Exhibition, to Liverpool, free of charge—an offer worthy of the man, who has already proved himself to be his country's greatest benefactor.—*Colquhoun*.

SUPREME COURT, Michaelmas Term, Dec. 2.—On motion of the Attorney General, William Henry Blanchard, and Matthew H. Richey, Esquires, Attorneys at Law, were this day duly admitted and enrolled Barristers of H. M. Supreme Court of Nova Scotia; and James McDonald, of Pictou, Student at Law, having passed the necessary examination and taken the usual oaths, was also duly admitted and enrolled an Attorney of said Court.—*Recorder*.