

When persecution bares her arm,
Let not her terrors spread alarm;
Trust we in Him who saves from harm,
And says: "Tis I; be not afraid."

When malice points her venom'd dart
To wound us in some vital part,
Seek we His aid, with all our heart,
Who says: 'Tis I, be not afraid."

Whatever ills we meet below,
Still let us to the Saviour go,
Who for us conquers every foe,
And says: "Tis I, be not afraid."

J. M. AIM.

MISCELLANEOUS.

REV. DR. AULD OF Ayr.—On the afternoon of Thursday last a beautiful service of plate was presented to the Rev. Dr. Auld by his parishioners and friends, as a mark of respect and esteem on the occasion of his having attained the fiftieth year of his ministry. Colonel Hamilton, who presided at the presentation, passed a very high eulogium on the Doctor for his kindly disposition, bland, polite, and gentlemanly manners, and his readiness to oblige even the humblest of his parishioners. These qualities he stated had gained him golden opinions from all classes of the community. The worthy Doctor made a suitable and feeling reply. The service of plate bore the following inscription:—"Presented, December 20, 1849, in the fiftieth year of his ministry, to the Rev. Robert Auld, D.D., minister of Ayr, by a number of his parishioners and friends, in testimony of their respect and regard."

THE LATE REV. HECTOR BETHUNE.—Our obituary of the week before last contained the usual simple record of the death of this gentleman at Dingwall, upon the last day of the past year, at the age of 67. His position in society, and the estimation in which he was held, demand a more ample notice. Mr. Bethune's father was minister of Ainess in Ross-shire, and upon his death about six-and-forty years ago, was succeeded in the pastoral charge of that parish by his son, then a very young man. The latter held that office for nearly twenty years, and was then translated to Dingwall, as successor to the pious and popular Dr. Alex. Stewart. Although Mr. Bethune's style of preaching was of a quiet rather than of an energetic character, yet the advantage of a handsome person and gentlemanly manners, combined with an extreme love of peace, a cheerful and kindly disposition, and delightful social qualities, secured to him the attachment of his own parishioners and the regard of a large circle of friends. Instead, however, of extending these remarks, we refer with pleasure to an eloquent tribute of affection to his memory by one who knew him long and well. Upon Sabbath, last week, the Rev. Charles Downie, of Contin, preached an able sermon in the vacant pulpit to a large congregation—taking for his text, from the last chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, these words:—"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the Word of God, whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation"

The funeral took place on the 9th January, the following acting as mourners:—Rev. Angus Bethune, Mr. John Bethune, Rev. Lewis Rose, Rev. Charles Downie, Dr. Mackenzie, Eileanach, A. Mackenzie, Esq., Millbank, Duncan Davidson, Esq., of Tulloch, and Mr. John Maciver, banker. The attendance of friends, both from town and country, was large, for the mild, gentlemanly, and truly Christian character of the deceased rendered him respected and esteemed by all classes.

LARGES.—A few of the friends of the Rev. Robert Turner, assistant to the Rev. John Kinross, minister of Largs, previous to his leaving, presented him with a handsome sum of money in token of

their approval of the valuable services he rendered the congregation during the short period he laboured among them. He carries with him the best wishes of a numerous circle of friends to his new sphere of usefulness, as assistant and successor to the Rev. Robert Lunan, minister of Kinneltles, Forfarshire.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATION.—A juster estimate of one's self is acquired at school than can be formed in the course of domestic instruction; and, what is of much more consequence, a better intuition into the characters of others than there is any chance of learning in after life. I have said that this is of more consequence than one's self-estimate; because the error upon that score, which domestic education tends to produce, is on the right side—that of diffidence and humility. These advantages a day-scholar obtains, and he avoids great part of the evils which are to be set against them. He cannot, indeed, wholly escape pollution; but he is far less exposed to it than if he were a boarder. He suffers nothing from tyranny, which is carried to excess in large boarding-schools; nor has he much opportunity of acquiring or indulging malicious and tyrannical propensities himself. Above all, his religious habits, which it is almost impossible to retain at school, are safe. I would gladly send a son to a good school by day; but rather than board him at the best, I would, at whatever inconvenience, educate him myself.—*Southey's Autobiography.*

CHINESE LITERATURE AND SCHOOLS.—The Chinese are a reading people, and the number of their published works is very considerable. In the departments of morals, history, biography, the drama, poetry, and romance, there is no lack of writings, "such as they are." The Chinese *Materia Medica* of Le-she-chan, comprises forty octavo volumes. Of statistical works, the number is also very large. Their novels are said to be, many of them, excellent pictures of the national manners. The plot is often complex, the incidents natural, and the characters well sustained. The writings of the Chinese are exceedingly numerous, and the variety of style is very great. From the days of Confucius down to our own times, during a period of more than twenty-three hundred years, there has been one uninterrupted series of authors. China is full of books, and schools, and colleges. New authors are continually springing up, though few of them comparatively gain much celebrity. The press is active, and the traffic in books is a lucrative and most honorable branch of trade. Individuals have their libraries, and government its collections. Of these there are catalogues, some of which contain simply the titles of books, with the names of their authors; but others, in addition to the titles and names, give brief notices of their contents, intimating in a few words what each contains.

UNIVERSITY DEGREE.—The University of St. Andrew's have unanimously conferred the honorary degree of L.L.D. on Mr George Lees, Lecturer on Natural Philosophy in the Scottish Naval and Military Academy, Edinburgh.

WHAT A PASTOR MAY DO WITH HIS PEN.—It has often filled us with surprise that so few of the strong men of the pulpit employ their pens for the press. A pastor sometimes spends weeks in elaborating thoughts for a sermon which is delivered to a congregation of a few hundreds, and is then thrown into the barrel of old manuscripts. The same thought condensed, and put into a popular form for a newspaper, might reach and influence tens or hundreds of thousands; and with as much hope of its making abiding and saving impressions, perhaps, as when uttered from the pulpit.

Rev. J. Mattos, a native of Madeira, who was educated at Glasgow, and belongs to the Free Church of Scotland, has accepted a call to become the pastor of the Portuguese refugees now settled in Illinois, and is expected to arrive in this country in two or three weeks.

—*New York Evangelist.*

CHURCHES IN SAN FRANCISCO.—A correspondent of the *New York Christian Advocate and Journal*, says—In common with others who have not visited California, I supposed that about the whole of its Inhabitants were emulous to excel in rendering supreme homage to gold. Judge of my agreeable surprise, then, on arriving here, at finding that during the period occupied in making the voyage around Cape Horn, five Protestant Churches had been organized in this city alone, besides a number more in other parts of this State. It was, indeed cheering and delightful to find that even in California there were many who loved God supremely, and were putting forth vigorous efforts to extend the Messiah's kingdom over this portion of the globe.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN CHINA.—The following is an extract from a letter from an Episcopal missionary clergyman at Shanghai:—"But the great event to us was the opening of our large new church, in the midst of the Chinese city. It was on Sunday last—the first Sunday in 1850. For hours before the appointed time numbers of people were waiting about the gateways, and when the doors were open the crowd was such that there was great difficulty in getting them seated. Many of our English and American friends were there also, and took their places in one of the side galleries. When three o'clock came, the Bishop, Mr. McClatchie, and myself, he in his robes and we two in our surplices, went and took our seats in the chancel. The Bishop began with the consecration service adapted to the circumstances, and then a young Chinese convert (who is also a candidate for the ministry, came forward and read aloud a petition, stating, that one Mr. Appleton, of America, who honoured God, and had heard that the people of Shanghai worshipped idols, had sent 5,000 dollars to build this house, and the house being now built, he begged that the Bishop would set it apart from all common uses, and consecrate it to the service of the true God. The Bishop then offered the prayers of consecration, and handed me the deed, which I read aloud to all the people to let them know that their building was now dedicated for ever to the service of the one true God, whose name is Jehovah. The people seemed to be very much struck with the whole of this service, and if you consider that this was done in the midst of a city of 200,000 inhabitants, all hitherto given to idolatry, and that one of the most frequented shrines or temples was actually within hearing of our voices, you may judge of the striking novelty of the scene."

We are requested again to call the attention of our readers to the questions of the Queen's College Missionary Association which recently appeared in our columns. We learn that replies were beginning to be received to them.

We are much gratified in being able to state, that, subsequently to Mr. Mowatt's induction to the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's Church, at Niagara, the ladies of the congregation presented him with a handsome silk gown.

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