

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY.

LECTURE ON THE HUMAN EYE,

By Thomas Taylor.

CHAPTER III.

"He that formed the eye shall he not see?"

Thus far we have seen the eminent services of the lids, in assisting the sight and defending the organ of vision, by their constant ablutions on the surface of the ball. But they afford protection to the eye in another way. In sleep when there is no occasion to exercise the sense of sight, these curtains spontaneously close, while in the day, by a partial closure, they are of great use in moderating the force of a too brilliant light, and when necessity requires, in wholly excluding the glare by an entire closure. Every person must have remarked the large size of the upper compared with the lower lid. This peculiar conformation is not without its advantages. "In a climate where the sky is so constantly clouded we are less sensible of the advantage of this arrangement; but those who have been in more southern climates know how great is the distress which arises from the direct light of the sun; such climates could scarcely be inhabited by man, were it not for the superior size and drooping of the upper lid." This wise and merciful provision is seen on a still more extended scale in the camel. That useful animal is destined to travel over oceans of arid sand, exposed to all the heat of a burning sky:—the eye in consequence is well fortified for its important office, for as the camel always carries its head in a horizontal position, the large brow and lid completely overhang the orb, and in this manner shields it from the direct glare of the sun. The apparent size of the eye is determined by the separation of the eyelids. A person capable of opening the lids widely, is supposed to have a large eye, while another who can part them but in a small degree is concluded to have a small eye. In this estimate we may however, be mistaken, for the real size of the eye cannot be accurately known by the division of the lids, as the distance of their opening has no necessary relation to the true dimensions of the globe of the eye.

It would betray an inattention to our mercies were we to pass by the beautiful fringes of the curtain of the eye, or neglect to dwell with thankfulness, on the graceful rows of fine hairs with which the lids are adorned. It deserves our particular notice too, that while the eyelashes grow only to a convenient length they are so formed that they do not mat or entangle each other when the lids close. This inconvenience is avoided by those of the upper lid being bent upwards, and those on the lower downwards. In a very high degree the lashes impart beauty to the eye, and give to the countenance, a mild and pleasant aspect. Forming a perfect screen they are of signal service in more distinct vision, when a perfect representation of any object is required, in excluding the extraneous light. In addition, they form a powerful miniature fan; continually in motion and yet unwearied, they winnow away the dust, and by their comparatively hard flapping, destroy many noxious insects which might otherwise sadly inconvenience us. To man and the ape species, eyelashes on both lids are peculiar—other animals have them on the upper lid only; and even in man, the lashes of the under lid are somewhat less than those of the upper.

The eyebrows afford the most external defence of the eye. It is singular that whilst the hairs of the head and the lids grow in different directions, those of the brows should differ again from both. The hair of the brow does not grow out straight like that of the head—nor upwards and downwards as that of the lids, but it is all turned outwards to the outer angle of the eye. How abundantly the forehead is sometimes suffused with perspiration we all know—nay we have all witnessed the literal fulfillment of the curse pronounced on man. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." By the powerful action of the muscles, the blood is strongly propelled to the brain—the consequence is, the blood-vessels about the head become tinged, the fibres are relaxed, the pores enlarged, and the sweat, or serum is poured out. The saline properties of the sweat, if introduced, would corrode and injure the eye; but by virtue of the direction of the hairs of the brow towards the temple, and by the oily secretions of the part, the perspiration is prevented from flowing into the eye, and turned towards the temple or the root of the nose. Buffon, in his flowing style observes, that "the parts which give most character to the countenance, are the eyebrows. Being totally different from every other feature, their effect is augmented by the contrast—they form a deep canvass, and give relief to the other colours and features." And every one knows that much of the beauty of the face, depends on the size, form and colour, of the brow. As a mark of comeliness the Romans thought the brows should meet, and paint was employed by the ladies to form the graceful union. The fair Greeks, however, thought otherwise, for they were careful to keep the brows separate, forming them into beautiful arches, gently terminating into—nothing. The separation of the brows with an unfurrowed front, gives a calm and intelligent expression to the countenance. The storms of passion and the writhings of pain are first seen by a second person in the knitting of the brow.

Here, let us pause, and with wonder, mingled with gratitude, consider the abundant protection and beauty which God has afforded to so minute a piece of mechanism, as the eye. The Architect, for the preservation of his building, takes care that the eaves of the roof shall overhang the building. Answering to the eaves of a house are the brows of the eye, which to employ the language of Paley, "like a thatched penthouse, prevent the sweat and moisture from running down into the eye." To adorn her apartments and to moderate the excessive light of the sun, the lady tastefully arranges her hangings, allowing them gracefully to droop over the windows, while also, additional blinds and shutters sometimes wholly exclude the light—precisely in accordance with this disposition of furniture, are the eyelids, the shutters to the windows of the human soul. In an instant they can darken the whole apartment of the eye. Again, beautifully drooping over the ball, they admit a sufficiency of light, and also give expression and cheerfulness to the countenance. Once more—for the full admission of the rays of light through our windows, we find it requisite to wash the glass and preserve it clear. And to preserve the transparency of the eye, a fountain with a number of minute tubes is provided, and these tubes constantly pour out their torrents of liquid, and thus keep the corner of the eye, inimitably bright and moist. Yet again, if any extraneous matter lights upon the globe, the graceful eyelash may be converted into an admirable brush to sweep the eye, and that merely by raising the upper lid and drawing it over the lower one, the convex hairs of which immediately remove the offending substance. All these are marks of contrivance in the appendages of the eye, which it would be ungrateful in us not to admire and regard.

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, JANUARY 27, 1838.

OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came down to the Council Chamber at 2 o'clock on Thursday last, and opened the Session with the following

SPEECH

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

My first duty, and a painful one I find it, is to condole with you on the loss which, since our last meeting, we have sustained, by the demise of his late most gracious Majesty William the Fourth, of blessed memory, whose paternal attachment to this Province, which he visited at an early period of his life, will be remembered with gratitude and respect.

The Throne of the British Empire is now filled by his august niece Queen Victoria, the daughter of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who for many years resided among you, when Commander in Chief in British America. Her Majesty's accession has been hailed, in every part of her extensive dominions, with the most enthusiastic loyalty: her youth and sex claim from her subjects their dutiful affection and support.

It is with deep regret I have to notice the late unfortunate events in the Canadas; but I have the satisfaction of informing you that the insurrection has been put down in Lower Canada, and that the traitorous attempt made to separate the Upper Province from British rule, has been signally defeated by the gallant conduct of the Militia alone; it is true that a small and desperate band still retain possession of Navy Island; but there is every reason to believe as measures have been adopted at the recommendation of the President of the United States for the enforcement of the neutrality on the frontier, that these deluded men, deprived of all foreign assistance, will be speedily dispersed.

These rebellious proceedings have called forth in this Province the strongest expressions of indignation and abhorrence, and the addresses from various quarters which have been presented to me, declare the unshaken attachment of the inhabitants of Nova Scotia to her Majesty's Person and Government.

I have great pleasure in congratulating you upon the abundant harvest with which it has pleased Divine Providence to reward the labours of the husbandman, and which has diffused the blessings of plenty throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The Provisional Establishment of two Distinct Councils, which has recently taken place, and the dispatches which I am instructed to lay before you, afford ample evidence of the gracious attention that has been paid to the representations which you addressed to the Throne in the last session.

I earnestly hope that this important alteration of the ancient constitution of the Province, will be attended with all the advantages which when you advised the measure, you expected it would be accompanied.

I have directed the Public accounts to be laid before you, and I trust you will find that the supplies granted to her Majesty in the last Session have been faithfully expended. The usual estimates of the Civil Establishment for the present year will be submitted to you, and I have no doubt of your providing for the sup-

port of her Majesty's Government, and for all other necessary services, with your usual liberality.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I have great satisfaction in acquainting you that the Revenue last year has increased considerably; the receipts have been more than sufficient to meet all the demands of the Treasury. I feel it my duty to recommend an economical application of our means, by keeping our expenditure within our income.

I most earnestly desire to draw your particular attention to the inefficient state of the Militia; it is not at present what I wish to see it; there is all the feeling and loyalty I could desire. As it is the Constitutional defence and security of the Province, I am persuaded you will see the necessity of amending the Law now in existence; and the zeal and discipline of twenty-five thousand young and willing sons of your own families ought not to be neglected by Government and the Legislature.

It is the earnest desire and recommendation of her Majesty's Government that you will enter upon the discharge of your Public Duties, with that spirit of harmony in your proceedings, for which the Legislature of this Province has so long been conspicuous, and which has proved so conducive to the best interests of the Country.

My anxious wish is to see peace, content, and prosperity prevail throughout the Province; and you may rely upon my cordial co-operation in any measure which can tend to secure and increase these blessings.

CHAPLAINS TO CONGRESS.—It is rather singular that both the Chaplains, this Session, are Methodists. The Rev. Levi R. Reese of the Methodist Protestant Church was elected by the House of Representatives; the Rev. Henry Slicer of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by the Senate. The Rev. Thomas H. Stockton of the former church, for his simple piety and commanding eloquence, was a short time since, elected as Chaplain for two successive sessions.

LOSS OF TWO STEAMERS.—The steamer Blackhawk, Capt. Taylor, on her passage from Natchez to Natchitoches, burst her boilers on Wednesday night the 27th inst., a short distance above the mouth of Red River. She had a full freight, a large number of passengers and horses, together with \$90,000 in specie, belonging to the United States. The pilot and engineer were instantly killed; several more were supposed to be lost—number not known. Four or five were severely and several mortally wounded. Most of the passengers were saved by the timely arrival of a flat boat, which conveyed them to shore. The principal part of the cargo was saved in the same way. Seven horses were lost—\$75,000 of the specie saved. The hull, partly under water, remains near where the accident occurred.

THE VICKSBURG.—On Friday morning, Dec. 29, the steamboat Vicksburg Capt. Auler, was burnt, while on her way from Vicksburg to this port. The accident took place at half past 4 o'clock, twelve miles above Baton Rouge. The fire commenced among some cotton bales, near the boilers, and in six or seven hours the boat was burnt down to the water's edge. Fortunately all the passengers escaped with the trifling loss of some of their property, the boat lying at the shore at the time, having stopped only ten minutes before, on account of the fog, otherwise there would have been an immense destruction of life.—*The New Orleans Picayune*, Dec. 31.

THE SPIRIT OF SLAVERY.—In the Senate, Jan. 4.—Mr. Young of Illinois said he was surprised to hear Senators from the South say "hands off." He thought that the strength of the abolitionists was so great, so extensive, so much upon the increase, that the South blinded itself by refusing to listen to the evidences before her. In his opinion the South could not protect itself without the protection of the General Government.

Mr. Preston replied. He thanked the gentleman for his sympathy for the South. He wanted none of it—if he thought the South was not able to take care of itself. The South was abundantly able to protect itself. She wanted no interference—nothing but constitutional protection. She still cried, "hands off, hands off," to all—to the States, to the General Government beyond her defined constitutional powers of protection. She complained of interference and wanted none of it. The laws upon this subject were many and highly penal, and Mr. Preston would say that in spite of the United States' laws, if any man interfered with slavery in South Carolina, South Carolina would hang him upon the strength of her laws.

Mr. Young was desirous of introducing an amendment which proposed to allow the right of interference by the Government of the United States on certain occasions, as in this instance.—Suppose a man residing in Pennsylvania, active in the cause of the abolitionists, and committing what the southern people consider a crime against their institutions. Suppose that same man subsequently reaches South Carolina, and is conducting himself as a peaceable citizen, but is identified as the Pennsylvania abolitionist. He is seized by the authorities of the State, and under the slave