

dism, he discovered at a very early age a predilection towards its ministry, and having received an admirable education, he began at an early age to call sinners to repentance. His ministry commenced in the year 1830, and after eleven years spent in important charges in the usual pastoral and Circuit duty, he was appointed, in 1841, Classical and Mathematical Tutor in connection with the Theological Institution, a position which he filled for eight years. In 1849 he was transferred to the Conference Office as junior Editor. On the death of Mr. Cubitt, which occurred in less than two years after this appointment, Mr. Thornton became senior Editor, a position which he continued to occupy till his death. His appointment to visit the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, and to preside over the Conferences of Canada and of Eastern British America, as well as his recent election to the Presidency of the British Conference for the current year, completed and crowned the list of honours and responsibilities which he was destined to receive and to fulfil before passing away to his endless reward. Notwithstanding the great strain upon his physical and mental powers to which the late President had been subjected during the last twelve months, he was never known to complain seriously of fatigue. Three Sundays previously to his death, he preached twice at Liverpool-road Chapel. It was evident on that occasion that he was suffering from indisposition, but it was remarked that there was a special excellence in the sermons, and that they were accompanied by a peculiarly gracious and heavenly influence. "Never did I seem to feel myself more near to heaven under any sermon than under that of this evening," was the remark of one of his hearers returning from the chapel. The text was, "Mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts," Isaiah vi. 5. No subject could have been more appropriate to the close of a ministry always evangelical and richly expository, and most elevating to the experience and hope of Christian believers. From that day's services Mr. Thornton retired to his home, where he remained under the tenderest care that affection could devise until his death. He does not appear to have apprehended a fatal termination to his illness; he was cheerful to the last, and never relaxed his attention to business. On Sunday morning, March 6th, when he awoke, he said he felt better, and that it was the beginning of a good day. To a friend who called to inquire he sent a kind and cheerful answer, closing with the words, "My mercies abound." These were perhaps his last words, for he was immediately seized by the hand of death, and before he could reply, except by a gentle motion of the head, to the anxious inquiry of Mrs. Thornton whether he did not feel better, he breathed his last.—*Methodist Recorder*.

VII. Papers on Natural History.

1. PROTECTION OF BIRDS.

It may not be generally known to juvenile sportsmen that from the first of March to the first of August it is contrary to law to kill any kind of insect-eating birds.

We copy the following from the Act of 1864, "For the Protection of Insectivorous and other Birds beneficial to Agriculture."

Sec. No. 1.—"It shall not be lawful to shoot, destroy, kill, wound, or injure, or to attempt to shoot, destroy, kill, wound, or injure any bird whatsoever, save and except eagles, falcons, hawks, and other birds of the eagle kind, wild pigeons, rice-birds, kingfishers, crows, and ravens, between the first day of March and the first day of August in any year."

The same act also prohibits the buying or selling, trapping or snaring of any insectivorous birds during the close season. It also prohibits the taking of the nests or eggs; and authorizes the destruction by any person of nets, snares or trap cages set for insectivorous birds. It also authorizes any person to seize upon view any birds, dead or alive, taken in contravention of its provisions, and carry the same before a magistrate for confiscation.

The penalty for any breach of the Act is from one dollar to ten dollars, all of which is awarded to the prosecutor or informant.

This Act is likely to prove most beneficial in its working, if stringently enforced, and we trust it will be. It has, we regret to say, been too common a practice for men and boys, for lack of larger game, to destroy large numbers of robins, blackbirds, and other small birds which feed upon insects, and thereby destroy many of the kinds destructive to growing crops.

Independent of the benefit done to the country by insect-eating birds, among which may be ranked the greater number of our song birds, their presence in large numbers add to the interest and beauty of the woods in the summer season.

We trust that every one will take an interest in the endeavour to carry into effect the provisions of the Act above referred to; and that parents in particular, who allow guns to be used by young people, will strictly caution them against killing any of the kinds of birds protected by the statute.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

2. "BLEST HARBINGERS OF SPRING."

The advent of the glorious spring time has been joyously proclaimed for a few mornings past by those popular favorites, the Robin and the little Song Sparrow. We never listen to the sweet notes of the latter little fellow without wishing that he had power to sustain them longer, for they are really delightful.—*Prescott Telegraph*.

3. THE SINGING BIRDS.

The time of the singing birds has come earlier, we think, this year than in former years. There are two or three kinds of small birds chirping and warbling in the gardens, and we hear that a robin was seen three or four days ago. The crows have been flying about noisily for weeks. Would some of our naturalists describe in a popular manner, and name the little birds, as they arrive in spring, after the manner of White, the natural-historian of Selburne?

VIII. Miscellaneous.

1. IRISH SEA WEED.

"Oh call us not weeds, but flowers of the sea;
For lovely and bright and gay tinted are we,
Our blush is as deep as the Rose of thy bowers,
Then call us not weeds, we are Ocean's gay flowers.

Not nursed like the plants of a summer parterre,
Whose gales are but sighs of an evening air;
Our exquisite, fragile and beautiful forms
Are nursed by the Ocean, and rocked by the storms."

2. A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HEAVEN.

At the Vienna Post Office a few days ago, a letter was found in the box bearing the remarkable address, "To the dear little infant Jesus: to be delivered in Heaven." As the latter address is not contained in the beat of the Austrian letter-carriers, there was nothing for it but to send the note to the dead letter-office. Here it was opened, and was found to have been written by two little boys, respectively eight and six years of age—Rudolph and Carl X.—, residing in one of the suburbs of the capital. In the letter the youngsters had made the promise "to be very diligent with their lessons and to be very good boys indeed after the holidays;" and they therefore begged "das liebe Christ-kind" (the infant Jesus, who, according to the tradition of all German nurseries, sends children all the presents they get at Christmas) "to send them very nice things this Christmas."

3. THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

I know—that my Redeemer liveth. (Job xix. 25.)

I know—in whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. (2 Tim. i. 12.)

Ye know—that he was manifested to take away our sins. (1 John iii. 5.)

We know—that ALL things work together for good to them that love God. (Romans viii. 28.)

We know—that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens. (2 Cor. v. 1.)

We know—that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 John iii. 2.)

IX. Educational Intelligence.

—CORBOURG GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—Happening to go into Mr. Salisbury's bookstore, we were much pleased with an inspection of two pen and ink maps there, the work of two of the pupils, Master W. H. Benson, and Master H. Ruttan. The map of Germany, by the former, is 24 by 36 inches in size, and shows in detail the various territorial divisions, the natural features of the country, such as mountains and rivers, and the positions of all places of importance, the whole very beautifully colored, and the lettering and general finish almost equal to an engraving. The other is a map of Holland and Belgium, smaller in size, and not colored, but, at the same time, showing a good degree of proficiency and accuracy, and highly creditable to Master Ruttan. Mr. Barron, the principal, must be highly gratified at the success of his pupils, which, while reflecting great credit upon himself as a teacher, at the same time shows the close