

CONCLUSION OF VOLUME III.

THE year of favor 1847 has nearly terminated. On many accounts it has been one of uncommon interest, and will long be remembered. Scarcity of provisions in Europe during the first part of the year, and a bounteous harvest in its season; famine and pestilence in poor Ireland and the desolating influence of disease carried by the destitute emigrants wherever they have gone. Besides the wretched emigrants, how many have and are now suffering from disease, or mourning the loss of dear friends in consequence of the contaminating influence of the famine fever, which they have spread wherever they have breathed! Saint John has not only been the receptacle of from fifteen to twenty thousand of these poor, suffering, pestilence, and famine carrying creatures; but it has in its bosom or in its immediate vicinity some of the most daring assassins that now live unchanged. How many have been stabbed, beaten, mutilated, and shot down, we dare not record. Since the issue of our last number, *three* of the regular watchmen, in the early part of the evening, were stabbed; one has since died of his wounds, and the others in a doubtful state, and the assassin uncaught!

And what are the religious communities doing? We have not heard of a single conversion during the year! It is even doubtful whether, in a population of forty thousand, one heart has been turned from the love and practice of sin to the service of God. How much we have to humble us in the presence of a God that cannot look upon sin. The business men in the community are in a state of doubt and suspense; merchants and mechanics know not what will be the result of the present crisis. We implore no ill upon our active population, but we believe that less business and toil, and anxiety about the things of the world, would prove a blessing to a large proportion of professing christians. May predicted distresses, failures, &c. induce christians to be more anxious to lay up for themselves treasures in the heavens that will never fail; and may sinners, seeing their gods fleeting and perishing, be induced to seek and serve the true God.

Although we have not had the privilege of recording in *The Christian* any conversions in this city, yet we have had numerous most interesting accounts of the progress of the Apostolic Gospel, both in Europe and America; a record of some of these triumphs we have given to our readers, and had we room many more would be furnished. In future we hope to keep pace with the times, and put our readers in possession of earlier intelligence of the spread of truth and righteousness.

We are apprized of the fact, that the *Christian* has not been, to many, so interesting as were the former volumes. A. is interested in a publication that is wholly controversial: it is meat and drink to hear and read severe strictures on the sects. B. longs for these fine essays on the ancient order of worship, &c. such as characterized the *Christian Baptist*, and were republished by Dr. Johnston in the "*Gleaner*." To B. we would say, no man in America, could now prepare such essays. The author of them has exhausted the subject. The ground has been occupied. And the entire work, the seven volumes of the *Christian Baptist* (now well bound in one) can be procured in New York for two dollars. C. would be well pleased if the conductor was warmly engaged