

A HINT TO PREACHERS.—At a visit to a friend's house, not long since, a social conversation passed between us, in the course of which his companion observed, "I do not like to see Mr. — at our house," naming a minister of the Gospel. This excited my curiosity, when I observed, "Why, Mr. — is a faithful preacher and a good man, why do you not like to see him here?" She replied, "Why, when he comes to our house he pays no attention to my children, and scarcely notices them at all." These were the words of a fond and amiable mother, and, no doubt, the sentiment expressed by her is in accordance with the feeling of every mother's heart. The way to gain the esteem of a fond parent is through her much beloved offspring,—but he who passes them by with cool indifference, will be sure to meet with a cold reception from the parent, who sees her little ones thus neglected by the minister. Besides, what influence may a little attention from the minister have upon the child himself? A kind word spoken, the hand placed upon the head of a child, and occasional notices of that kind, may secure the love of the mother and of the child likewise, and render the visits of the pastor acceptable and profitable.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PRAY.—About sixty years since, three pious brothers covenanted together to observe a particular day of every week to offer special prayer for the conversion of their aged father. The old gentleman was a strict moralist, and one who deemed conversion unnecessary, and consequently would resist every appeal to repent and yield, to be saved by grace alone. Thus he lived till eighty years of age. But his faithful sons would not give him up for lost; they continued for fifteen years to offer their prayers before perceiving any visible token of good. At length however, to their unspeakable joy, their aged father, during the past year, became the subject of God's converting grace. He publicly professed his faith in Christ by uniting with a Christian church. A few weeks after this, the old gentleman sickened and died; but he left behind an evidence of God's power and willingness to save to the uttermost all who come unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In view of facts like the above, let praying souls take courage and hold on in well doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not.

THE REFINER OF SILVER.—Some months ago, a few ladies who met together in Dublin to read the Scriptures, and made them the subject of conversation, were reading the third chapter of Malachi. One of the ladies gave it as her opinion, that the Fuller's Soap, and the Refiner of Silver, were the same view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of Christ; while another observed,—there is something remarkable in the expression in the third verse: "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." They agreed that possibly it might be so; and one of the ladies promised to call on a silversmith, and report to them what he said on the subject. She went accordingly, and without telling the object of her errand, begged to know from him the process of refining silver, which he fully described to her. But, sir, said she,—Do you sit while the work of refining is going on? Oh yes, madam, replied the silversmith, I must sit with my eye steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver will be injured. She saw at once the beauty, and the comfort too of the expression—"He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."

Christ sees it needful to put his children into the furnace; but he is seated by the side of it: his eye is steadily intent on the work of purifying, and his wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random; the very hairs of their head are all numbered. As the lady was leaving the shop, the silversmith called her back, and said he had still further to mention that he only knew when the process of purifying was complete, by seeing his own image reflected in the silver. Beautiful figure! When Christ shall see his own image in his people, his work of purifying will be accomplished.

THE CENTURY PLANT.—A great curiosity.—We learn with great pleasure that our enterprising friend, Bernard Duke, has in his possession the largest specimen of the Century Plant, or One Hundred Year Flowering Aloe, (*Agava America-*

na) in America. While the report of the rarity of the plant now shooting up its flower stem, at the Patroon's green houses in Albany has been exciting the astonishment of all America, Mr. Duke has quietly suffered his doubly splended specimen to pass on to florescence without a comment, completely stealing a march on our good citizens, who would have overrun his extensive grounds to witness this wonderful production of nature. The plant, which is over 35 feet in circumference, is now in full perfection, the flower stem being upwards of 20 feet in height and covered on every branch with thousands of rich deep yellow blossoms. Its appearance is singular, grand and curious, and will no doubt excite the astonishment of the whole of the fashion and beauty of our city.

But three specimens of the *Agava* as yet have flowered in America, the first of which, a small plant, blossomed on the grounds of Wm. Hamilton, Esq., at the Woodlands, where it was visited by upwards of 20,000 persons, and the second which bloomed at Lemon Hill, was exhibited in Philadelphia for the benefit of the Philadelphia Orphan's Asylum, to about 35,000 visitors. The present plant, which will be exhibited at the Masanic Hall, is now 95 years of age, and was originally grown by the same gentleman at his conservatories. It has been since his death the property of the McMahon family and is now in the hands of Mr. Duke. An opportunity to view the Aloe seldom occurs, and as there is no sufficiently large plants in the country to bloom, will not occur again the present century. It dies immediately after its florescence has terminated.—*Phil. Inq.*

THE CORPORAL.—During the American Revolution, it is said, the commander of a little squad was giving orders to those under him relative to a stick of timber which they were endeavouring to raise up to the top of some military works they were repairing. The timber went up hard, and on this account the voice of the little great man was often heard in regular vociferations of "Heave away! There she goes! Heave ho!" An officer, not in military costume, was passing, and asked the commander why he did not take hold and render a little aid? The latter, astonished, turning round with all the pomp of an emperor, said, "Sir, I am a corporal! "You are, are you?" replied the officer; "I was not aware of that." And taking off his hat and bowing, "I ask your pardon, Mr. Corporal." Upon this he dismounted, and lifted till the sweat stood in drops on his forehead. And when finished, turning to the commander, he said, "Mr. Corporal, when you have another such job, and have not men enough, send for your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you a second time." The corporal was thunderstruck! It was the Commander-in-chief.

DEAD PEOPLE LIVE HERE.—In Mackenzie's "Second Campaign in China," he thus describes a remarkable suburb of Canton: "One suburb of the city deserves particular mention: being, in the literal acceptation of the term, a city of the dead. It consisted of a well-built town, which was apparently not inhabited by living beings, but devoted entirely to the tenants of the tomb. The front of the houses was appropriated to the worship of Joss, while the back part was divided into several coffins, arranged on elevated platforms, and surrounded with incense burners. The outside of these chambers was tastefully ornamented with beautiful creeping plants, while over the doorway were generally inscribed some Chinese characters. The coffins were very thick and made of camphor wood: and, when opened, contained embalmed bodies in the highest preservation. Each "tenant of his narrow bed," being attired in his best clothes, presented no unpleasing image of a long sleep. One coffin, in particular, contained a mandarin, dressed in full uniform, with rich satin robes and cap and button, denoting the rank of the deceased: one hand held a fan, and the other a Chinese chop, while some money was arranged on his breast, in the form of a cross. The Chinese are, I believe, very particular in paying respect to the memory of their ancestors, which may in some degree account for the extreme neatness of this immense mausoleum."

MEMORABLE SAVINGS.—"To use force first before people are fairly taught the truth, is to

knock a nail into a board without boring a hole for it, which then either not enters, or turns crooked, or splits the wood it pierceeth."

"The good child reverenceth the person of his parent, though old, poor and perverse—as his parent bare with him when a child, he bears with his parent if twice a child; nor doth his dignity above him cancel his duty unto him. When Sir Thomas More was Lord Chancellor of England, and Sir John, his father, one of the Judges of the King's Bench, he would, in Westminster Hall, beg his blessing of him on his knees."

WEDDED LOVE.—Conceive the happiness to know some one person dearer to you than your self—some one breast into which you can pour every thought, every grief, every joy; One person, who, if all the rest of the world were to calumniate or forsake you, would never wrong you by a harsh thought or an unjust word; who would cling to you the closer in sickness, in poverty, in care; who would sacrifice all things to you, and for whom, you would sacrifice all; from whom except by death, night nor day, can you ever be divided; whose smile is ever at your hearth; who has no tears while you are well and happy, and your love the same. Such is marriage, if they who marry, have hearts and souls to feel that there is no bond on earth so tender and sublime.

A MOTHER'S LOVE.—There is so divine a holiness in the love of a mother, that, no matter how the tie that binds her to the child was formed, she becomes as it were consecrated and sacred; and the past is forgotten, and the world and its harsh verdicts swept away when that love alone is visible; and the God who watches over the little ones sheds his smile over the human deputy, in whose tenderness there breathes His own!

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

From the Herald Extra.

ARRIVAL OF THE BRITANNIA.

By the Queen which arrived this morning from Quebec, we received the Quebec Gazette of yesterday, containing the news by the Britannia, which reached Halifax in the forenoon of the 17th. We are indebted to the politeness of Mr. Washington, of the Queen, for the copy of the Gazette from which we extract the intelligence.

The Britannia has made the passage in 12½ days. The only important features of the news are improvements in business generally, and favorable crops. The accounts of a pacific arrangement with China will require confirmation. In India there is nothing decisive; on the continent of Europe there is no material alteration of the general state of affairs. Parliament was expected to be prorogued on the 17th August.

STATE OF TRADE.

Liverpool, Aug. 14th.—Our predictions of a speedy revival of trade on the new tariff coming into operation have been realised. The accounts from most of our great seats of manufacture and commerce speak of improvement. This is particularly the case in London, Leeds, Bristol and Manchester. In Scotland, too, there are marks of revival; while the harvest, everywhere will be abundant. In the money market, such is the overflow of money, that lenders discount good paper with avidity at 2½ per cent. A cessation of agitation would soon restore all the depressed interests to their former prosperity.

THE OVERLAND MAIL.

"Among the items of intelligence which have reached us from Scinde, and which may be depended on as authentic, are an announcement that a large army, said to be 25,000 strong, is advancing from Mushed to Herat, and that very auspicious conferences are being held at Hyderabad, between the Ameers and others, requiring the most vigilant attention of Major Outram."

"We have news from Jellalabad to the 29th of May. Akbar Khan had demanded 10,000 rupees for General Elphinstone's remains. The Delhi Gazette of the 14th of May mentions that they had been interred, on the 30th of April, within the walls of Jellalabad. Akbar Khan claims that Dost Mehamed be sent back, and that we evacuate the country, leaving an agent at Caboul in exchange for the English captives."

BIRTH.—In this city, on Friday, the 19th inst., Mrs. William Dolan, of a son.

DIED.—In this city, on Friday, the 19th inst., William, infant son of Mr. William Dolan.