

THE PROTESTANT, AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

hem, or Moses, or David, or Peter, or Paul, inheritors of heaven? Was it their ungodliness? No; they had none. Paul says he was the "chief of sinners." What, then, made them blessed? I will tell thee. They had hearts to believe God's promises and to receive God's salvation. God delighted to give to the unworthy and to display his grace to the undeserving who trust in him. "He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and liftest up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory." (1 Sam. ii. 2.)

**THE
Protestant & Evangelical Witness.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1859.

CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

This is a season which suggests thoughtful reflection and serious consideration. It reminds us of the rapid flight of time, and the transitory nature of earthly enjoyments. It speaks to us in solemn tones, and demands, as a faithful monitor, a listening attitude and reflective thoughts. When we have reached the termination of another period of our fleeting existence, we will find it profitable to meditate on the past, and review the actions then performed. Thus we may learn lessons of wisdom for the future. Endowed with the power of recollection, we should frequently, and especially at the present time, ask memory to read from the records of the past. Nor should we be satisfied with merely studying memory's page, and reading there the year's history. Possessing moral perceptions, let us ask ourselves what we have done that is wrong, and what we have left undone that we ought to have done. If other books should be read with reflection, surely that of memory, possessing a deep, personal interest, ought to be studied with thoughtful and close attention.

"Time is short" is a truth which should be deeply impressed on the human mind by the close of the year. Its various periods soon glide into the past. Winter, with its frost and snow, though lingering in the north, was soon gone, quickly numbering its short days and changing weeks. Spring came, like opening flowers, early to depart. Its short days and flowers, in their budding and sprouting plants, beautiful in their own shortness. Through summer followed, it did not long continue. It hastily accomplished its work, rapidly bringing to maturity the fruits of the earth. Its short days and scrabbled sun were soon changed for autumn's clouds and cooling rains. Autumn came with rapid marches, quickly to pass. Naked fields variegated forests, falling leaves, ready to man the lesson that here he has no abiding. But the last season of the year did linger. Its days are numbered, its sun has set, and winter is again upon us. Weeks, and months, and seasons have gone; and the year is closing. Let its departing voice, bold and proclaiming to every one that "time is short," and let that voice excite to busy thought, and inward, intense reflection.

Closely connected with the shortness of time, is the important truth that a great work must be accomplished in its brief period. The salvation of the soul must be secured in time, or never be possessed. Forgiveness of sin must be obtained on earth, or deliverance from its curse will never be a song of praise in heaven. The dominion of sin must be destroyed in the soul before it passes into an unchanging state of existence; else it must remain a bond-servant of Satan and enemy of God throughout eternal ages. The evil, the diseased heart, must yield to the treatment of the Physician of souls, before the beating pulse has been stopped by the chilling hand of death. Here, indeed, is a great work. Here is a subject for serious personal consideration, and heart-searching examination. How proper, how necessary, at the closing scene of another of our short years, to ask ourselves individually the question, am I prepared to die with the dying year? Every reader should possess, at least, a good hope of eternal life,—a hope resting on Christ, the sure foundation. When Christian consciousness harmonizes with the tests of religious experience contained in the Word of God, then the believer may rejoice in hope of the glory of God. When his own heart does not condemn, then he may have confidence towards God.

But the Christian, already assured of renewal of heart, may also very profitably make the present a time of serious self-examination. If he would prosper spiritually, he must inquire narrowly as to the progress he is making in the divine life. Growth in grace is a distinguishing characteristic of the true believer. Unless he is growing, he may justly fear that his native power still awes its scepter in his heart. Let him then prayerfully and impartially examine himself at the close of the year. What improvement has he made of the various means of grace which he has enjoyed? Does he bear a greater resemblance to Christ his pattern than at the close of last year? If he has been going backward, it is time for him to stop. If he has been improving, he ought still to advance with accelerated pace. As the distance between time and eternity is shortening, let Stans for the divine presence be increasing.

Some, however, may read these lines, who are conscious that their hearts are not right with God. They know that they are guilty, and unhappy; but they are not earnestly anxious desiring forgiveness of sin, and removal of sin. They are satisfied with rolling stones; they are indifferent to the state of their immortal souls. To such individuals, the close of the year, has admonition and warnings. Reminding them of the shortness of time, it admonishes them of their error of life, and sinfulness of conduct. It warns them of the danger of procrastination, and summons them at once to act in accordance with the dictates of their own conscience. Death has been busy during the closing year. In battle-fields, amidst garments rolled in blood, it has presented its fatal summons. By insidious disease and sudden sciences, it has peopled the silent chambers of the tomb. Yawning hillocks have engulfed their many victims; open graves have received their numerous lifeless tenants. The shafts of death have pierced the hearts of the ungodly, and laid low the pride of the wicked. Thou, O careless, mortal man, art still in life,—still in the place of action, and having space for repentence. But thy life is fast abiding, thy days are being quickly numbered,—this night thy soul may be required. From the graves of the dead, from the knell of the departing year, from the Word of thy Creator and Judge, listen to the command, "PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD." Trife not, but tremble; turn not away, but pause and consider; hesitate not, but decide for God. This do, and accept the offered Saviour, and thou shalt live. Trusting in him and giving thy heart to him, we can then address thee, and all others in like circumstances, in the words which frequently pass a thoughtless tongue at the beginning of the year, and with the fullest confidence that they will be abundantly verified in thy blessed experiences, most cordially "with you A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

United Prayer for the Convention of the World.
The following arrangements have been made for a week of prayer for the conversion of the world, beginning on Monday January 9th and ending on Saturday, January 14th, 1860.
As many as are disposed to participate in the services of the week, are invited to meet, etc.
Monday, the 9th, with the Universalist Church, at 10 o'clock, p.m.
Tuesday, the 10th, in the Baptist Chapel, at 10 o'clock, p.m.
Wednesday, the 11th, at the Free Church, at half-past seven, p.m., and all of evangelists every evening.
The prayer meeting on Sunday next (to-morrow) will be held in the upper room of the Temperance Hall, at four o'clock p.m.

Thursday, the 12th, at St. James' Church, at half-past seven, p.m.

Friday, the 13th, at the Little Christian Chapel, at half-past seven, p.m.

Saturday, the 14th, with the Baptist Church, at the Temperance Hall, at half-past seven, p.m.

"It is agreed, that the collection of the various offerings in the Giver will be directed to the general object contemplated in this week of united prayer, and on the Lord's Day previous to the commencement of the devotional exercises, and on that which shall succeed them. Let the Head of the Church add his blessing, and the cause cannot but be profitable to those who join in the exercises; nor can it be without its good effect upon the welfare of the world."

By order,

J. ORLIEAR.

We have much pleasure in publishing the preceding communication. Such union prayer meetings, will produce the best effects both on individual piety and congregational feeling. When the members of different denominations of Christians unite together to pray as brethren, they will doubtless be influenced to a better observance of the divine precept, "Love as brethren." When they feel their common wants, and apply to Him in whom all fullness dwells, they will realize more fully that they are one, because they are supplied from one full fountain. As true believers rejoice more confidently on the "sure foundation," and look more unto Jesus, they will perceive more clearly their close relationship, as well as exposures more fully of the Saviour's exceeding preciousness. Individuals abroad, and some in this City, have expressed the sentiment, that however much they enjoy times of refreshing, while attending denominational prayer meetings, they experience still greater blessings when different sections of the Church unite in offering up their prayers and supplications to their heavenly Father.

The call to united prayer coming from India, has been responded to in many parts of the world. From

India, that land of recent deadly battles and bloody butcheries, where the walls of suffering innocence and the cries of helpless babes excited no sympathy in cruel hearts, a voice comes inviting to prayer. Shall it not be cheerfully and promptly answered? A few of the precious ones of the earth are there, who, in the midst of heathenism, feel for earth's miseries and implore that our prayers may ascend with theirs, in the expectation that they will be regarded and answered by the prayer-hearing Jehovah. Let every heaven-born soul accept the invitation given, and in earnest prayer and longing expectation beseech Almighty God to pour out his Spirit, that a world lying in wickedness may speedily be converted to himself. A noble's conversion, the subject of united prayer! Noble thought! Godlike purpose! Let this thought rise in every bosom, and thrill every soul, and absorb every generous desire, till "the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea."

Young Men's Christian Association and Literary Institute.

On Thursday evening last, Rev. Mr. Davis lectured before this Association and a very good audience, on Poetry, the poet. The lecture was instructive and interesting. The lecturer is evidently an ardent admirer of the distinguished Christian poet, and can well appreciate the beautiful in taste and elegant in expression. He began with the statement of a few facts in the history of the poet; and gradually introduced his audience to the treasures of poetic fancy, describing the man as he was, sensible, thoughtful, and truly religious. The poet pursued his studies mainly as antidote to melancholy, with which he was affected during a part of his life. He was no servile imitator. His poetry was original; and he is known by its strong individuality. One of its peculiarities is, that it is founded on the Bible. His satire is christiansm satire.

The lecturer next proceeded to discuss his poet with the young people of the latter is like Jonathan's figs, the good very good, and the bad very bad; not so with the former. He wrote no line which dying he might wish to blot. His poetry will continue while the English language is spoken. Allusion was next made to his letters, which are numerous and excellent. They belong to the precious of the vast store of our literature. His religion was then noticed with commendation. The disinterested love of hope from his seen in his own; but this sometimes occur in true christian experience. His dependency was never attended with the malignant sense of despair. His sorrows were many, and his joys were few; he was often cast down in spirit, yet cheerful among his friends. His melancholy has been charged to his religion; but the accusation was clearly shown to be false. The lecture was interspersed with finely chosen illustrative extracts from the writings of the poet; and suitable selections were, with emphatic eloquence, read at the close, showing the genius of the man, exhibiting his character, proving his abhorrence of tyranny, slavery and oppression, and revealing his deep religious feelings and evangelistic desires.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the Association, for the transaction of its annual business, will be held Next Tuesday evening, the third prox, in the Infant School Room, at 8 o'clock. A full attendance is requested, as matters of unusual importance will come before the Association.

The Annual United New Year's Prayer Meeting, in connection with the Association, will be held in the Temperance Hall, on Thursday evening the 5th prox., beginning at eight o'clock.

J. DAVIS, Sec'y.

To THE EDITOR OF THE PROTESTANT.

Dear Sir;

I sometimes criticize others. This time I criticize myself. I wish to plead guilty to two errors, into which I fall in connection with the facts of last night.

First, I am in regard to the length of my performances, as also to overrating the talents of the performers. It is important that persons attending a lecture, especially if it be one of a series, should be able to reach upon its probable termination; otherwise they may be induced to run the risk of an unnecessary detention from their own houses; and thus the attendance at the lecture may be seriously injured. I did not advert to these facts, last night, when I spoke.

Perhaps, also, I fell into a more serious error in my allusion to the flag of the United States. I spoke as though slavery were a national institution with our republican neighbours. It is more properly local and sectional. The nation is implicated with it. It is in the bitter interest of all the states to get rid of it, and to have no religious interests at all. Those are the who try to make it national. Those are the who try to make it religious interests as well. Those are the who try to make it national.

There are no multitudes who take slavery as much as any Briton can hate it—the hate is upon high moral considerations; and who are honestly, earnestly, and hopefully striving to rid their country of the abomination. It is wrong to flout at all where we are at fault; nor is it by discrimination, or severity, or severity of language, that we can best serve the cause of justice. We are here to do our duty, and to drive from the world. I say pardon, therefore, to my American audience for the hasty and unwarmed expression of last night, and hope to avoid a like error in time to come.

Yours truly,

J. DAVIS.

Dec. 30, 1859.

RELIABLE RELIGIOUS ITEMS.

A new Work.—On Thursday, the 16th inst., Messrs. Alex. Simpson, John Lockerty, Alex. M. Neill, Wm. Fraser and John McKenzie, called upon Rev. Isaac Murray, of Cavenish, and presented him with a set of harness.

The prayer meeting on Sunday next (to-morrow) will be held in the upper room of the Temperance Hall, at four o'clock p.m.

W. R. WAYSON.

Charlottetown, Dec. 16, 1859. 40

The Rev Mr Hall, Missionary of the Baptist H. B. of Nova Scotia, will preach (D.V.) at the following places:

Jan. 1st, Lord's day at Uige; 3d and 4th, even-

ings, at Georgetown at 7 p.m.; 6th day, at Montague Bridge; 8th Lord's day, at Belvoir; 10th, 11th, 12th, St. Peter's Road at 7 p.m.; 13th, Lord's day, at Lot 49; 17th, 18th, 19th, at Cavendish, at 7 p.m.; 22d, Lord's day, at Tryon; 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, do; Feb. 1st, 2d, 3d, at Frestown; at 7 p.m.; 5th, Lord's day, at St. Eleanor's. Mr Hall is authorized to collect funds for the Board. He will lecture on Temperance, and will endeavor to form Union Prayer Meetings, and will visit families for prayer and religious instruction. The prayers of God's people are requested for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this Island.

We have just heard that the Roman Catholic Bishop of this Island, Rev. Dr. McDonald, died this morning, at the College, Charlottetown Royalty, where he had been removed during his indisposition.

His name was

John Gray, a Tale, 2 vols.

4 Madame de Sevigne,

5 The Rhine,

6 Nine Block; the Face-Book,

7 The Pilgrim Fathers,

8 Spirit of the Oracle Lent.

9 The Struggle in Tale.

10 Crimes of Criminal Law,

11 Leon Gendy; a Legend of

Ghosts,

12 The Pit and the Pendulum,

13 Great Ayres; a Tale,

14 Arnold and Andre,

15 Spirit of Dante's Vision,

16 Light-House.

17 The Queen of Spain,

18 The Basket of Cherries;

19 History of the Marquesas,

20 The Rock Republic; a Tale,

21 The Mystery Stranger; a

Tale,

22 Five Days on the Welsh

Border,

23 Spirit of Orlando Furioso,

24 The Slave; a Tale,

25 The Times and Mines

26 Old Witcheries; a Tale,

27 Lapland; a Tale,

28 Henry Armand and the

daughters,

29 Persian Story,

30 The War in Caffaria,

31 Rival Kings; a Tale,

32 The Hope of Leonscombe;

33 Madam de Staél,

34 The Times and Mines;

35 The War in Abyssinia;

36 The Queen of Sweden;

37 Field Marshal Suvorov;

38 The Hope of America;

39 The Red Sea;

40 The Russian Monks;

41 Mont Blanc and its Glaciers

42 The Russian Monks;

43 Ivan Vaughan; a Tale;

44 The Sorrows of Siberia;

45 The War in Abyssinia;

46 Constantine de Gruyère;

47 Montenegro and the Monte-

negro;

48 Spirit of the Hind;

49 The Moravia Brethren;

50 The Refugees' Daughter; a

Tale,

51 Stories of the Danube; esp. monily called Louis XVII

52 The Friendly Arrest; a Ta-

ble,

53 The Moonstruck; a Tale,

54 Peder's Rest; a Tale,

55 Lay of the Nibelungen,

GEO T. HASZARD, Agent for P. E. I.

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