

CHARITY.

Oh, sweeter than the scented thorn!
And brighter than the star of morn,
Alone, left smiling on the dawn—
Kind Charity?

Oh, still more placid than the beam
The silver moon flings o'er the stream,
Sweetly she soothes life's anxious dream—
Kind Charity!

No headstrong passions wear her mind;
But ever gentle, ever kind—
Thankful for good—to all resigned—
Is Charity.

Simplicity and candour shine
Upon her countenance divine;
And all her thoughts to peace incline—
In Charity.

Her accents formed the soul to move;
With unaffected sweetness prove
Th' harmonious influence of love
And Charity.

Angelic power her tongue employs;
For nothing bids the heart rejoice
Like the dear, sympathetic voice
Of Charity.

Rest then, my harp, unbrace thy strings,
And listen while the cherub sings—
Soft o'er the scene the music rings—
Of Charity.

From thy bosom banish pride,
Scorning all the world beside—
Consider beauty, riches, sense,
Each as the gift of Providence.
Let not malice hope that you
Will circulate her tales, tho' true:
But ah! some painful truths suspend;
Yet making Truth thy constant friend.
Another's welfare, envy not;
Reflect, when tempted to repine,
On Him, who gave His life for thine.
Engrave his precepts on thy mind—
To every one be just and kind—
For on the charitable tongue
Ungrateful words are never hung.
Lib'rally do thou dispense
The gifts of Heaven's munificence.
At others' merit ne'er repine;
But let their conduct model thine.
Take not offence, where none is meant;
But strike all discord to prevent.
And be to thine the tender part,
To bind and heal the broken heart.
Should misfortune be her lot—
Let Charity repine not;
And when by sorrow most oppress,
Still bethink all things for the best,
Harsh words and looks may give her pain,
"Yet she revileth not again."
Although possess'd of zeal to rise;
To threaten and to punish vice;
She dwells with all in peace and love,
And rears her better hopes above.
Above, there dwells a Power, oh man!
Whose eye thine inmost thoughts doth scan;
Whose wisdom will exact at last,
A history of thine actions past;
And if thou tell an honest tale
Be sure his justice will not fail,
In mercy, to accord to thee
The sovereign meed of Charity.—J.B.—Beachville.

and many others have not only brought the most extensive research to bear upon these subjects, but have also rendered them attractive by the beauty of their style and the brilliancy of their thoughts. The Revd. James Hamilton, Minister of the National Scotch Church, in London, has lately published some works, which have at once ranked him among these illustrious names. He has a clearness and originality of thought, a purity and playfulness of style, which leave an indelible impression of the subject on the mind of the reader. His comparisons are often exceedingly beautiful and ingenious. The following of a "busy idler" to a swallow is a good sample of these—

"We this instant imagined a man retaining all his consciousness transformed into a zoophyte. Let us imagine another similar transformation; fancy that instead of a polypus you were changed into a swallow. Tarry you have a creature abundantly busy, up in the early morning, for ever on the wing, as graceful and sprightly in his flight as tasteful in the haunts which he selects. Look at him, zigzagging over the clover field, skimming the limpid lake, whirling round the steeple, or dancing gaily in the sky. Behold him in high spirits, striking out his ecstasy as he has bolted a dragon-fly, or darted through the arrow-slits of the old turret, or performed some other feat of birdlike agility. And notice how he pays his morning visits, alighting elegantly on some house-top, and twittering politely by turns to the swallow on either side of him, and after five minutes' conversation, off and away to call for his friend at the castle. And now he is gone upon his travels, gone to spend the winter at Rome or Naples, to visit Egypt or the Holy Land, or perform some more *recherché* pilgrimage to Spain or to the coast of Barbary. And when he comes home next April, sure enough he has been abroad;—charming climate,—highly delighted with the cicadas in Italy, and the bees on Hymettus;—locusts in Africa rather scarce this season; but upon the whole much pleased with his trip, and returned in high health and spirits. Now, dear friends, this is a very proper life for a swallow, but is it a life for you? To sit about from house to house; to pay futile visits, where, if the talk were written down, it would amount to little more than the chattering of a swallow; to bestow all your thoughts on graceful attitudes and nimble movements and polished attire; to roam from land to land with so little information in your head, or so little taste for the sublime or beautiful in your soul, that could a swallow publish his travels, and did you publish yours, we should probably find the one a counterpart of the other; the winged traveller enlarging on the discomforts of his nest, and the wingless one, on the miseries of his hotel or his chateau; you describing the places of amusement, or enlarging on the vastness of the country, and the abundance of the game; and your rival eloquent on the self same things. Oh! it is a thought, not ridiculous, but appalling. If the earthly history of some of our brethren were written down; if a faithful record were kept of the way they spend their time; if all the hours of idle vacancy or idler occupancy were put together, and the very small amount of useful diligence deducted, the life of a bird or quadruped would be a nobler one; more worthy of its powers and more equal to its Creator's end in forming it."

We beg to remind some of our Subscribers, whose names were sent in at the commencement of the Volume, but from whom remittances have not been received, that our Terms being strictly in advance, a special favor will be conferred by early attention to this matter.

BURLINGTON LADIES' ACADEMY.

THE SUMMER SESSION, consisting of FIFTEEN WEEKS, will commence on THURSDAY, the ELEVENTH day of MAY, 1848.

The Principal and Preceptress are assisted by eight Ladies, eminently qualified to impart instruction in their several departments.

For full information, attention is invited to the Academy Circular, which may be obtained on application to the Principal.

The Academy Building is situated in a pleasant part of the city, and in all its arrangements and furniture, has been fitted up with special reference to the health, comfort and convenience of the pupils.

The Principal invites Ladies and Gentlemen from abroad, at their convenience, to visit the Institution.

D. C. VAN NORMAN, A. M.,
Hamilton, March 9, 1848. Principal.

Editorial Department.

"Life in Earnest"—Six Lectures on Christian Activity and Ardor. By the Rev. James Hamilton.

It is not one of the least indications of the advancement of the present age, that it has produced a large number of religious writers, whose talents have thrown a charm around the all-important subjects, connected with religion, even to the most indifferent reader.—Chalmers, Dick, Bickersteth, Harris,

The Calliopean is published on the 9th and 24th of each month, by PETER RETTNER, James Street, Hamilton.

TERMS—One Dollar a year; in all cases payable in advance. Six copies will be sent for Five Dollars; or any one forwarding the names of five subscribers, with the money, free of postage, will receive a copy gratis.

Although "THE CALLIOPEAN" is under the management of the Young Ladies connected for the time being with the Burlington Ladies' Academy, Contributions of a suitable character will be thankfully received from all who take an interest in the work.

All Communications and Remittances must be addressed to the Editors of "THE CALLIOPEAN," Burlington Ladies' Academy, Hamilton, Canada West.