

Christian will rise, if not above the plague, yet superior to the vile dominion of sin, and achieve a triumph which philosophy fails to effect by its instructions, or poetry by its charms. The babe in Christ knows that, in himself, that is, in his flesh, dwelleth no good thing, but he can rejoice because he trusts in the promise—"Sin shall not have dominion over you ; for ye are not under the law but under grace."

Byron thus wrote at the close of his abortive and disappointed life—

" My days are in the yellow leaf,  
The flowers and fruits of life are gone,  
The worm, the canker, and the grief,  
Are mine alone."

Such sad experience shows strikingly the destructiveness of the most splendid genius, without the grace of the Spirit to sanctify the heart, and to strengthen us with all might in the inner man.

The poet asks : " How can you unravel my perplexity ?" Lady Blessington answered, " You are suffering from mental hypochondria—your melancholy and gloomy views arise from excess of thinking." An excellent Christian, of a better and higher school—the Rev. John Newton—writes for answer—

" By various maxims, forms, and rules,  
That pass for wisdom in the schools,  
I strove my passion to restrain ;  
But all my efforts prove in vain.  
But since the Saviour I have known,  
My rules are all reduced to *one* ;—  
To keep my Lord, by faith, in view,  
This strength supplies and wisdom too."

To allow ourselves to neglect the good we approve, and commit the evil we condemn, will rather aggravate than extenuate our failures, and is the surest and readiest way to eternal ruin. The sublime views which eminent Christians form of religion, lead them often to utter their complaints of unhallowed deficiency and infirmity ; but it remains forever a truth, that " he who *doeth* righteousness is righteous," not he that merely wishes to do it ; and " he who committeth sin is of the devil," though he speak against it like an apostle or an angel.

" At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes ; even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Thy sight."

WHITBY.

S. T. G.

## LITERARY CHURCH ASSOCIATIONS OF YOUNG MEN.

BY W. G. B., MONTREAL.

A German writer declared that the destiny of a State was largely influenced by the opinions prevailing among the young men under twenty-five years of age ; and it is a trite saying, that the future of this country belongs to and is to be guided by those who are now its youth. It is an undeniable fact, that this class of the community can and do wield an immense influence for good and evil ; and it