

smile on the brow betrays a kind heart, a pleasant friend, an affectionate brother, a dutiful son, a happy husband. It adds a charm to beauty, it decorates the face of the deformed, and makes a lovely woman resemble an angel in Paradise.

**General Miscellany.**

**The Influence of Light on Life.**

Since light so necessary is to life, and almost life itself.—MURRO.

The ancients, with greater physiological acumen than we are always willing to attribute to them, fabled disease to be the daughter of Nox and Erebus—*night and darkness*—the offspring of two mighty powers which are yet abroad in the world—powers which, though two of the great soothers of weariness and woe; become, when unduly proportioned to the quantity of light enjoyed, two noxious and injurious principles. God has indeed set his limits on the one, that neither night nor day should fall even unto the end of the world; but man, too, often enforces upon himself, on his neighbour, a darkness which is most prejudicial to his physical—shall we not also say to his moral?—health.

To every created being—from the lowest organized plant, which is a simple storehouse of nucleated cells, to the lowest possible forms of animal life, and thence passing upwards in the scale of creation even to man himself—we find that light is absolutely and pre-emptorily essential, not only to the first development, but also to the future well-being of the creature. The potato is placed through the winter in a dark cellar: as the spring draws nigh, the natural energy of the rising sap, stimulated by some passing beam of light, begins to throw forth a few feeble shoots; unfavourably, unceasingly, these blanch- ed-shoots bend towards this faint gleam, until at length they perish in the attempt to reach it, and die for lack of light. A plant accidentally takes root in some dark cave; and soon its pallid and unnaturally elongated branches are discovered struggling to reach the light of heaven with an energy which, perhaps, attains its object: immediately a great change is perceived; the leaves are now enabled to perform their appointed functions, and, as the beauty of their colouring increases beneath the pure light of the sun, they become conductors of that light to the root which supports them, and which in return they nourish. Again: a geranium, or some such plant, is cherished in a small dark window of a crowded street; its leaves turn one after another imploringly towards the scanty portion of light admitted, evincing an earnestness of purpose—or, to speak more correctly, an unfeigned obedience to the great laws of nature—which should form a study for every man, woman, or child: nor is it the leaves alone which thus seek and follow the light—even the more steady stem accommodates itself to the pursuit; and the whole plant soon becomes mis-shapen and one-sided in the struggle. Nay, some plants are so sensitive to the light, so pre-eminently dependent on it, that, like the sunflower, they will turn themselves throughout the day to follow the sunlight in its course; while others, like the mimosa, will fold their leaves together in what is termed sleep when the light no longer falls upon them. No plant can possibly exist without light, for without light it cannot decompose and appropriate the ever-present carbonic acid which is essential to its existence: when it is deprived of heaven's light, instead of absorbing this noxious gas it exhales it, and ultimately dies. Thus has it been mercifully ordained that, when the great laboratory which God has given to us in the vegetable world is placed in conditions in which it is hurtful instead of conducive to human health and life, it should at once perish, and cease to harm where it could not benefit.

Equally important and scarce less evident, are the effects of light on animal life: "the condition of every animal depends on the quantity of light which it receives." Dr. Milnes Edwards has proved, by experiment, that if tadpoles be completely deprived of light, their forms are indefinitely retained, and until the light is re-admitted they will continue to breathe by means of gills and to grow into "great tadpoles" instead of being metamorphosed into toads or frogs; as they would otherwise have been. The same

more expands its delicate zoophytic tentacula to the light of the sun; but let us interpose a darker object between it and the brightness, and, suddenly contracting them, it again becomes a shapeless mass. Hearn found that frozen fishes, caterpillars, &c., might be re-animated by the light and heat of the sun; and it has even been shown that insects which have been kept for several weeks in spirits may, by the same agency, be brought to life again. In both these cases the light was essential to the resuscitation, which could not be effected by the heat alone.—Humboldt, in his travels in South America, observed that among all the native tribes those were the most healthy which exposed the greater portion of the body to the light of day: while, in a far different region, Linnaeus remarked that constant exposure to "the splendid white light" reflected back from the snow-covered plains of Lapland was one of the principal causes of the invigoration experienced in that land.

Modern investigation has proved light to be a great remedial agent more particularly in diseases of the spine, with all their sorrowful accompaniments; and as a preventive power, there can be no question of its efficacy. "There can be no doubt whatever," says a modern authority, "that the agency of light is indispensable to the complete health of the animal body. To those devoted to sedentary pursuits, I feel quite persuaded that it is as important to sit in a room well exposed to the light, as in one well ventilated. Those situations, *ceteris paribus*, are the most healthy which are exposed to the influence of the sun's rays for the longest period in the day. And again, "Light is a vivifying stimulus to all living beings. The growth and development of the young of all animals is intimately associated with the agency of light: under its continued privation, sleep and torpidity take place. Its abstraction, especially from the young, quickly leads to the production of those heart-rending consequences of bodily deformity, rickets, scrofula, bloodlessness, and many other diseased conditions, which result from the imperfect formation of the blood, and incomplete nutrition of the body."

**Gutta Percha.**

Gutta Percha is the sap of the *percha* (percha) tree, which grows in abundance in Borneo, and other of the islands of the Eastern Archipelago; and is obtained in the same manner as caoutchouc, or India rubber, by incisions made in the bark, from which the sap runs freely, and afterwards hardens. It is rapidly and extensively coming into use for articles of domestic and manufacturing utility, as well as in fine arts and scientific purposes. But the principal use of gutta percha to our readers, at present, will be its usefulness as soles for boots and shoes, for which purpose it forms a valuable material, being entirely impervious to damp. In durability and cheapness gutta percha surpasses leather soles, while it has this very important advantage which that material does not fully possess, namely, that of preserving the feet entirely free from damp, and in a great degree from cold also; no matter how wet the weather may be. If the boots be protected by a gutta percha sole, no moisture can penetrate, while, through a leather sole, however thick, some dampness will find its way. By the complete exclusion of damp, one cause of colds and coughs is prevented, and the concomitant expense of a doctor or medicine sometimes avoided. For wear and tear through all seasons gutta percha is capital. We have known boots soled with it in constant every-day use during winter and summer, with every probability of continuing in good condition, for a much longer period; indeed, there appears to be no reason why boots and shoes should not henceforth be made to last for an unlimited time, for as the soles are preserved from the action of moisture by the gutta percha, they do not so readily decay, and as long as the upper leather remains good, they may be repeatedly repaired with gutta percha on the soles.

**Crossing the Atlantia in a row boat.**

The first man who has accomplished this feat arrived here this morning, having made the passage from Liverpool in Italy more than thirty days. He had no sail on board,

but was protected from the sun by a tarpauling awning. On arriving at quarantine, he exhibited no signs of fatigue or exhaustion, and indeed declared himself better able to undertake the voyage again, than when he had been only one or two days but at sea. Probably the man's story would be disbelieved, but that it happens to be attested by Capt. Hovey, of the Devonshire, and the officers and passengers of that ship, who repeatedly saw him and his small craft during their passage. We believe three of our pilot boats have crossed the Atlantic, at some peril, but this man made his way to the land of his hopes in a small boat not much larger than such a one as the Devonshire, or any ship of her size, would carry at her stern.

Reader, your faith is tried. Let us explain. When the noble packet ship Devonshire was one day out at sea, Capt. Hovey detected signs of small pox in one of his steerage passengers. He immediately had the stern boat, hanging from its davits, made perfectly secure and comfortable, removed the man into it, erected over him a tarpauling house, and in that boat the man crossed the Atlantic, not leaving it until he reached quarantine. He was fed from the Captain's table, recovered completely from the disease, was well and hearty when landed this morning, perhaps more so than his fellow passengers; and, as the result of Capt. Hovey's precaution, no other case of small pox occurred on board the Devonshire.—N. Y. paper.

**The Monkey and the Telescope.**

The monkey of a celebrated astronomer, having seen him continually looking through his telescope, concluded that there must be something delightful in it, and one day he gazed through it a long time, but seeing nothing, he concluded his master was a fool, and the telescope all nonsense, and he told Rover, the dog, what he thought of his master. "I don't know the use of a telescope, nor how wise our master may be," said the dog. "but I am satisfied of two things." "What are they?" said the monkey. "First," said the dog, "that telescopes were not made for monkeys to look through, and second, that monkeys were not made to look through telescopes."

**Obituary Notices.**

**Mr. Will Lucas.**

Died—on the 11th inst., at Cuddeon, in consequence of injuries received from a fall from a ship which is being built in Mr. Olive's ship-yard five days previously. Mr. WILL LUCAS, aged 28 years.

Mr. Lucas was born in Ireland, and emigrated some years ago to this Province. His parents were members of the Church of England, and brought up their son according to its rites and ceremonies. He remained a lawyer an entire stranger to vital godliness until about six or seven years ago, when his own wife was the means of bringing him among the Methodists, where he ultimately found the "pearl of price." He seems to have been in society some time before he believed with his heart unto righteousness, so as to be "sealed with the Spirit of promise;" this took place one Sabbath morning; it is believed under the preaching of the Rev. R. Coaker, when he obtained peace through believing. He soon communicated this delightful fact to his partner in life, who rejoiced over him in the Lord. From that time he walked in all the ordinances of the Lord blameless, adorning the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, gaining the esteem of his brethren, and the respect of all who knew him: until the day he fell from the ship as mentioned above. The fall was of so serious a nature, that his whole body from the chest downwards, was quite paralyzed and never again recovered sensation; he was, however, perfectly sensible until his end, and could converse quite well. He was blessed with perfect resignation to the will of God; he enjoyed uninterrupted peace, calmness and assurance; and a cloud never came over his mind from beginning to end. It was deeply affecting to see him resign, with perfect confidence, his little children to the Lord's care, and delightful to hear him testify to the power of Divine grace; in this happy frame he resigned his spirit into the hands of God while a few friends were kneeling around his bed. The following day a large body of the "Sons of Temperance" accompanied him to his resting place; and on the 17th inst. a funeral sermon was preached for him in the Wesleyan Chapel, Cuddeon, when many of his friends and acquaintances were present.

W. T. CARY.

Cuddeon, (St. John) N. B.,  
11th of 1851.

**Correspondence.**

**Pastoral Letters.**

NOV. 1. (CONCLUDED).

4. Attend Class Meetings regularly, and go not only when you are very happy and therefore have something good to say; but go also, when you are labouring under difficulties and temptations, and by the exhortations and prayers of your fellow-christians, you will get good and be enabled to take courage. Under the Old Testament dispensation among the faithful worshippers of Jehovah, there was Church fellowship; for we read, Mal iii, 16: "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his names." Christian fellowship was certainly coeval with Christianity; for of the first Christian Church it is said: "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and in fellowship."—Acts ii, 42. The Apostle when writing to the Hebrews, and referring to the then existing practice of church-fellowship, says: "Exhort one another daily, while it is called to-day: lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."—Heb. iii, 13. Again, chap. x, 24, 25: "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." Christian fellowship in some form or other, has been observed by every evangelical church in Christendom; and the Wesleyan form is that of class-meeting, which is really the stamina of Methodism.

5. Attend Prayer Meetings, whenever opportunities are afforded you for such purpose. Be not discouraged because the numbers who attend are few; for Jesus hath said, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven." For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."—Matt. xviii, 19, 20.

Do not neglect Family Prayer.—You who are placed at the head of a family, be sure to call your children and domestics around the family altar; and read the Sacred Scriptures with them, and pray for them. Of Abraham, Jehovah said, "I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment."—Gen. xviii, 19. Joshua resolved,—chap. xxiv, 15,—"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." St. Paul exhorts the Ephesians, (vi, 4), in reference to their children: "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord;" while the prayer of the Prophet Jeremiah, (x, 25), "Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not; and upon the families that call not upon thy name,"—must be considered as tantamount to an expression of the Divine displeasure against all who neglect the important duty of family prayer.

6. Adhere firmly to the doctrines in which you have been instructed, and by which your minds have been enlightened. The doctrines of Wesleyan Methodism you know are the doctrines of the New Testament; therefore cling closely to them. They have saved multitudes and they will save you. Listen not to any new doctrine; for there is nothing new in religion. You are commanded in the Bible, "Thus saith the Lord stand ye in the way, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."—Jer. vi, 16. Error has always some truth connected with it, and when men purpose to introduce error, they usually exhibit the truth connected with it first; and watch their opportunity for the propagation of their peculiar views. The Apostle Paul therefore gives this particular instruction: "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines, for it is a good thing that the heart be established in grace."—Heb. xii, 9. Observe the two terms he uses—"divers" and "strange." Divers means variegated, that is, such as you have not been accustomed to hear, and are therefore new to you; and strange means foreign; such as are not in accordance with Apostolical doctrine, and the analogy of faith. In many persons there is a disposition to run after any new teacher or any new teaching; but do not forget, dear brethren, the caution in the above text, "Be not carried," that is, whirled or tossed about with "divers and strange doctrines."

7. Endeavour to support the cause of God in your circumstances enable you. It afforded me much pleasure, while among you, to observe the readiness with which many of you complied with our rule of weekly and quarterly contributions; or, as it is sometimes called, class and ticket money.—for the support of the ministry amongst yourselves. This subject is likely to be again brought before you; and as it is decidedly an old Wesleyan Rule; and the only feasible plan by which pecuniary means can be realized for the consolidation and extension of Methodism; let me exhort all who have not done so, to comply with our Rule at once; as we hope soon to see the uniform system of finance in all the Circuits of the District.