

for the sick, and palatable food for the hungry. With a woman's heart—a woman's energy—a woman's will, make your way through the snow. Your cheek shall have a ruddier tint—your eye shall have a brighter light—your heart shall have a brighter blessing.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

THOMAS PAINE.

In a recent article on the celebration of Tom Paine's Birth-day, we alluded to Grant Thorburn as a living witness of his dissolute and disgusting habits. A late *New York Observer* contains a letter from Mr. Thorburn, written on his 83rd birth-day, February 18th, and dated at Winsted, Conn., where he expects to pass his remaining days. The letter is devoted chiefly to reminiscences of Tom Paine. We make the following extracts, which we hope will be read at the next and every subsequent anniversary of the infidel debauchee.

As there is but a step between me and death, I owe it to generations yet to come, to tell what I saw and heard of THOMAS PAINE. Perhaps there lives not a man on earth, who traced him from his cradle to his grave, except myself. Carver and I were fellow-labourers in the same shop. Paine and Carver were born in the same town in England. Paine and I boarded with Carver. I often heard Carver, his wife, and Paine, as we four sat by the fire on a winter night, rehearse the items of his life. I think he was the worst member of the body politic I ever met in all my journey through life. He married a respectable lady, who died eleven months thereafter, in consequence of brutal treatment. He then married a daughter of the Collector of the Port of Lewis; after three years she obtained a divorce for like treatment.

In 1773, while he held an office in the Custom House, (given him by his father-in-law,) he was detected in taking bribes from the smugglers, and fled to America. He was made Secretary to the Private Committee of Congress, and took an oath of office to keep their secrets. He broke this oath by divulging the project of a secret mission to the Court of France by Silas Dean. He was dismissed with disgrace. (See the Journal of Congress in 1774 or 5.) This treachery was the cause of much trouble in Congress, and in the Court of Louis XVI.

We next find him in Paris, helping Robespierre in his labours of love to establish freedom of the press, and the right of speech, by means of the guillotine. He quarrelled with Robbier, and was chucked for guillotine. God, willing to make the wrath of Paine to praise Him, sent an angel who delivered him out of prison. (For particulars of this miracle, see the Life of Thorburn, 101st page.)

In 1801, when King Thomas the First ascended the throne of his kingdom, he instantly despatched a national frigate to convey to our shores the venerated Thomas Paine. He arrived early in the year 1802. I spoke with him at the City Hotel, Bowery, a few hours after his arrival. He found letters urging him on to Washington, then four days' journey. He started next morning. At Georgetown a messenger was sent forward to announce his approach; a feast was got ready, and all those of like thinking were invited. Paine entered late, his shirt unwashed, his beard unshorn, and reeling like a drunken man. A look of consternation shone forth from every face; mirth ceased; one by one they went out, leaving Paine alone on his chair fast asleep. Next day he received letters and instructions to return to New York.

When Aaron Burr returned from Europe, whither

he had fled after his duel with Hamilton, he kept his office in Nassau Street, near my seed store. From him I received the account above stated.

Paine, on his return, was unable to find lodgings; Carver took him in for old acquaintance sake. He died at Greenwich, of delirium tremens, in 1809.

THE POWER OF PRAYER.

The efficacy of prayer, to bring light and wisdom into the mind, peace into the conscience, submission into the will, and purity into the affections; to keep our garments clean, our armour bright, and our hearts joyful; to make us strong for the conflict, for service, or for suffering; to obtain sufficiency for our place and work, and a blessing on our endeavours; to secure peace with our enemies, or protection against them; to carry every point that is truly good for us; to bring down blessings on our families, friends, and country; to procure peace and prosperity to the Church, the conversion of sinners, and the spread of the gospel; and for all things which we can desire or conceive;—must be allowed by every man who reverences the Scriptures, or knows what it is "to talk with God." Did men speculate and dispute less, and pray more, their souls would be "like a watered garden;" fruitful, joyful, beautiful and fragrant. Prayer is the first breath of divine life; it is the pulse of the believing soul, the best criterion of health or sickness, vigour or debility. By prayer we "draw water with joy from the wells of salvation; by prayer faith puts forth its energy in apprehending the promised blessings, and receiving from the Redeemer's fulness; in leaning on his Almighty arm, and making "his name our strong tower;" and in overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil. All other means of grace are made effectual by prayer; every doctrine and instruction produces its effect in proportion as this is attended to; every grace revives or languishes according to the same rule. Our grand conflict with Satan and our own hearts is about prayer; the sinner feels less reluctance, and meets with less resistance, in all other means of grace, than in retiring to "pour out his heart" secretly before God; and the believer will find his chief difficulty to consist in continuing instant and fervent in this spiritual exercise. If he succeed here all else will eventually give place before him, and turn out to his benefit and comfort.—*Rev. T. Scott.*

From Evangelical Christendom.

PROTESTANT INNER MISSION IN GARD.

I shall now return to religious news which ought to obtain a place in our correspondence. An Inner Mission, similar to what you call *Home Mission*, has just been established in the department of Gard. It is a work which may become of much importance, if it is conducted in a pious and faithful spirit.

The department of Gard is that part of France which contains the largest number of Protestants.—The city of *Nismes*, the capital of this province, is in some sort the metropolis of French Protestantism. There, also, are the *Cevennes*, Alpine cantons, celebrated for the heroic resistance of the Huguenots against the persecutions of Louis XIV. There, also, the *Desert* assemblies were never given up, not even in the darkest days, and the children of Calvin sealed their faith with their blood, until they conquered and obtained religious liberty. But a great laxity has crept in among them since the revolution of 1789, and all the efforts of the pastors have not succeeded in awakening in recent generations the ardent piety