

and can more easily realize the power of the unseen Hand. Yet notwithstanding the wisdom of the all-wise Creator, in the arrangement of the seasons, poor, erring man is too prone to murmur. A cloudy day, a freezing atmosphere, or a frosty night, is sufficient to arouse his "combateness," and cause him to utter forth bitter complaints. This only shows the weakness of human nature,—not the injustice of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

Winter may be regarded as a blessing, in a physical point of view. If it were a perpetual summer, man, with his present organization, could not enjoy perfect health. His physical system would soon become debilitated. The optic nerve would soon become weary with seeing the same objects. The husbandman would soon sink under his oppressive labors. There would be such a sameness in all the works of nature, that man would grow weary of the world and weary of himself. The heat of a vertical sun is relaxing to the system, sometimes resulting in disease and death. But, when a change is produced in the atmosphere, from heat to cold, the physical frame becomes invigorated. Usually at the approach of cold weather, epidemics disappear, and the air we breathe becomes pure and wholesome. Winter should then be hailed with joy rather than sadness.

Winter is a blessing to man intellectually. Whatever promotes the general health, strengthens the intellect or mental powers. But there is another thing to be taken into consideration. The long winter evenings may be profitably improved, especially by that class of community whose time is chiefly occupied during the day with manual labor. The evenings, at this season of the year, afford a fine opportunity for mental improvement. Were it not for this division of time, many would neglect the improvement of their minds, which, above every thing else, need most cultivation. So the laboring man may well rejoice at the approach of winter, for then it is that he enjoys a rich banquet of intellectual pleasure, of which he is deprived at any other season of the year.

Winter is also a blessing in a moral and religious point of view. A person of reflection looks upon the past, and sees that every thing in Nature is fading—withering—dying. When he casts his eye upon objects rendered desolate by the frosts of winter, he considers that a few more seasons will place him in a similar attitude. Such reflections often tend to better his moral condition, knowing that he, like the tender plant that falls before the blasts of one winter, must fall before that of many winters. Hence, the falling of the leaves, the decay of vegetation, the snow-clad hills and mountains, and the whistling winds of Winter do most solemnly admonish him of his earthly dissolution.

#### FACTS FROM THE AMERICAN MESSENGER.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TURKS.**—Hon. George P. Marsh, the late accomplished minister to the Porte, in a recent lecture on American missions in the Turkish empire, state that the leading doctrine of the Koran, is not only that there is but one God and Mahomet is his prophet, but it is *submission to the will of God*, the words *Islam* and *Moslem* by which they designate their faith, signifying *submission, resignation*. The Turk never speaks lightly of his God, his prophet, or his religion, and never uses a profane expression. He does not murmur under any dispensation of Providence. Of 250 wounded Turks, brought to Constantinople after the bloody naval fight of Sinope, and placed under the care of British surgeons, not one was heard to utter a groan or a complaint, though they underwent the severest surgical operations. The Turks observe five hours of prayer, and one of which occurs at midnight, at each of which the mosques are commonly thronged. They observe their fasts, some of which are very severe, with great strictness. They are sober people, the vast majority never touching intoxicating liquors. They also respect all lawful authority. Mr.

Marsh stated, that he had never seen a community so free from violence and crime as the Turkish quarter of Constantinople. They have a strong dislike to idolatry. They are charitable. They are remarkable for cleanliness in their persons and dress; good breeding is universal. The Armenians, he states, are the most, intelligent, enterprising, and the most capable of improvement, and are destined, in his opinion, to be the channel through which Christianity will reach the Turks. Mr. Marsh gives decided testimony to the utility, importance, and success of the missions in Turkey.

**THE TURK AND THE JEW.**—An influential Jew of Paris recently had an audience with the Sultan, who told him that all the privileges and immunities hitherto granted to the Christians were to be extended to the Jews of Turkey, as he could not suffer the slightest difference to exist between the non-Mussulman subjects of his empire.

**MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.**—Rev. Messrs. A. B. Satterlee and G. P. Watrous, with their wives, have sailed for Burmah under the care of the American Baptist Missionary Union; Rev. Marcus M. Carelton and wife for the mission in Siam of the Presbyterian Board; Rev. Robert Smith, Mrs. Payne, and Miss Alley, for the Episcopal mission at Cape Palmas, Africa; and Rev. W. A. Macy, for the Mission of the American Board at Canton. A number of missionaries have died; among whom are Mrs. Elizabeth C. Vroom, of the Canton mission; Rev. Edwin Crane, of the Nestorian mission; Rev. Harvey Kinney of the Sandwich Island mission, and Mr. Wm. S. Potter, and Mr. Stark of the Choctaw mission of the American Board; Mrs. Rev. Alexander Reed, of the Choctaw mission of the Presbyterian Board; Miss Sophia M. Smith and Dr. Steele, of the Episcopal mission, West Africa; Rev. J. S. Dennard, of the Southern Baptist Board at Tomba, Coast of Africa; and Mrs. W. E. Sayder of the Lutheran mission, Simtoor, India. Mrs. D. B. Spencer, missionary to the Ojibue Indians, was shot by a hostile party of the Sioux.

**GOOD ACTIONS REWARDED.**—After the Collision between the Arctic and the Vesta, a boat from the latter vessel was run over by the Arctic, and all the passengers were lost except an old Frenchman, who was drawn on board the Arctic by a rope thrown him by a German named Keyen. After the wreck the old Frenchman was the first discovered by the officers on the Cambria, and through his directions, Captain Luce and a few others, among whom was Keyen, were saved. It is an interesting fact, that the captain of the Cambria, who rescued Captain Luce, was himself rescued from a wreck by the captain of the Pacific, another of the Collins steamers.

**WHY DON'T THEY LIVE.**—Within the last thirty years forty-one Roman-catholic periodicals have been started in the United States, thirty-three of which were weekly; of these twenty-four have died, and many of the seventeen remaining are feebly supported.

**CONTEMPT OF THE POPE.**—The Pope of Rome recently excommunicated the President of the Republic of Honduras. When the bull was received in Honduras, the President summoned an immense concourse of people, after reading the document to them, rammed it into a cannon with his own hand, pointed the piece towards Rome, and fired it off.

**DENTISTRY IN OLD TIMES.**—A dentist has found a tooth in an Egyptian mummy that had been filled, and several teeth in other mummies that bore marks of filing.

**LAZY BEAVERS NOT TOLERATED.**—There are some lazy beavers who will not work, either to assist in building their lodges or dams, or in cutting down trees. The industrious ones beat them and drive them away, sometimes cutting off a part of their tails, or otherwise