

ALBAN, A TALE OF VERULAM.
CHAPTER II.—A HEATHEN'S DEATH-BED.

Alban found his father much altered for the worse, even since he saw him but a few hours ago. His features were shrunk, his look dejected, and he complained of unpleasant dreams during his sleep.

These things, dear Alban, I thought not difficult of solution, or rather was easily satisfied with a solution.—Life was before me, and I cared for little that was beyond its seemingly distant barrier.

We have agreed that there is one supreme God, good and just, whom we worship under the personification of his various attributes, and under the persons of his inferior ministers, and the benefactors of our kind.

But now, my Alban, comes the knot of the difficulty. How are we to join these two propositions? What are we before God when this life is over?

Alban hung his head in silence. He had heard much from these men; had diligently studied their various systems; stored himself with a multitude of words and phrases; yet nothing could bring from all his hoard to bear upon the point.

His father smiled at his perplexity, and said, I knew, Alban, before I asked of you, that you could not inform me. I am too well acquainted with the vaunted pretensions, and lame and impotent execution of the philosophers, to expect any thing from that quarter.

Suppose then that the vulgar are right, (and they certainly go with our implanted feelings), and that there is a future state of reward and punishment. Indeed it seems to me impossible that there should be no distinction between good and bad in another life; and life to come and judgment to come seem reasonably connected.

But, my dear father, cried Alban, yours has been a blameless, and what is more, a useful life, full of good service to man, and of pious offices and donations to the Gods.

Alban! replied his father, you are young; you have not learned to distrust yourself; you have not begun to read the thoughts and judge the emotions of your own bosom, otherwise you would scarcely have answered so confidently.

But repentance, my child, can have no place here.—Repentance is accepted for the sake of mutual convenience and security between infirm man and man; but what place can this have between man and God?

Alban had now moved the couch, and Porthunus looked forth upon the view: the morning was grey and gloomy. In deep shades of dark blue lay the walls of Verulam.

How strange it seems to me that thoughts so natural, arguments so simple, should never have occurred to me before. But the world is vanishing away, and its charms, which corrupted the simplicity of my mind, have lost their efficacy at last.

The sick man soon fell into a slumber, and Alban, unwilling to leave the room, retired to the casement.—The evening was now far advanced. The sun was setting with more than usual brilliancy, and bathing the distant woods down in a flood of ruddy fire.

* From "Tales of the Ancient British Church," by the Rev. R. W. Evans.

his feelings on the morning and evening of this one day, and put his youthful thoughts upon the vanity of all human enjoyment.

The influence of Christianity was felt indirectly even by those who had never enquired into its real doctrines. Although they kept far aloof, with their faces turned from the glorious lamp; yet the light diffused around could not but come to their eyes, however weakened by reflection it may be.

Amid the perplexities of this twilight of divine knowledge, Alban's mind was groping its crooked and rugged way, and his eyes were fixed upon the deepening shades as they fell upon the landscape, when suddenly a figure attracted his attention.

He then returned to look at his father, whom he found still sleeping.—Again he sought the window, and the impression of the figure came vividly upon his mind.—His imagination was quite possessed with it, and his perplexity was extreme at the unaccountable look of strong interest which the stranger had put on.

Thus hour past after hour, until at length the dawn broke. As soon as it was light, he went again to his father's bed-side.

But think not, Alban, that I fear to die. It is not fear, it is perplexity which disturbs me. O thou great Author of our being! shall the aspirations towards perfection, which thou hast implanted in our bosoms, be after all idle as the winds?

According to the ordinary course of the world, it cannot but be that misfortunes will attend the best of men, and whole societies be involved in general calamities.

Prayer of all other duties ought to be a reasonable service; it calls upon him that undertakes it to consider before he resolves, again and again to consider into what presence he is going, what the thing is which he is about to do, what preparedness, and what fitness he finds in himself for it.

That Reason itself is the gift of God, it were ungrateful and impious to deny. It is a spark of the Divine Intellect, communicated to man at his creation, and transmitted to his posterity from generation to generation.

THE COURT OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA. THE Court of Directors hereby give notice that a Half Yearly Dividend of Fifteen Shillings, Sterling, per share will become payable on the shares registered in the Colonies on and after the Third day of August, during the usual hours of business, at the several Branch Banks, as announced by circular to the respective parties.

BRITISH AMERICA FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY. NOTICE is hereby given, that the Annual Court of Proprietors of this Institution, at which the election of Directors for the ensuing year takes place, will be held at the House of Business of the Corporation, Duke Street, city of Toronto, on Monday, the 3rd day of August next.

FOR SALE OR TO LET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SEYMOUR. A FARM, beautifully situated on the west bank of the River Trent, consisting of 245 Acres of Land, 70 acres of which are under cultivation—

THE BUILDINGS CONSIST OF A GOOD LOG HOUSE, 26 by 28 feet, with good cellars and kitchen beneath. A back kitchen in the rear, a large wood-shed, store house and boiling house, a good piggery and poultry houses. A CAPITAL FRAMED BARN, just erected, 60 by 40 feet, with stabling and extensive accommodation for cattle beneath.

TO BE SOLD OR LET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SEYMOUR. THE South-East half of Lot No. 16 in the 7th Concession, containing 100 acres more or less of good hard-wood land, 25 of which are cleared and well fenced, with a small house and barn thereon.

HENRY ROWSELL, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER TO U. CANADA COLLEGE, KING STREET, TORONTO.

REASON INFERIOR TO REVELATION. That Reason itself is the gift of God, it were ungrateful and impious to deny. It is a spark of the Divine Intellect, communicated to man at his creation, and transmitted to his posterity from generation to generation.

to his musical friends at Salisbury, they began to wonder that Mr. George Herbert, who used to be so trim and clean, came into that company so soiled and discomposed; but he told them the occasion.

The Garnet. FERTILITY OF THE EARTH. It is worth while to observe what is often overlooked, that to the soil on which we tread God hath made us indebted for the arts which adorn, and the learning which ennobles, just as much as for the food which sustains human life.

REASONS FOR THE INEQUALITY OF TEMPORAL DISPENSATIONS. According to the ordinary course of the world, it cannot but be that misfortunes will attend the best of men, and whole societies be involved in general calamities.

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THE JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT SCHOOL. THE Principal of the above Institution respectfully informs the public, that in consequence of the increasing number of his pupils, he has engaged an Academy the large and handsome edifice on "Court-House Avenue," Brockville, lately known as the Commercial Hotel.

DR. CAMPBELL will attend to professional calls at the house occupied by the late Dr. Carlile. Cobourg, June 19th, 1840.

VANNORMAN'S STOVES. CHAMPION, BROTHERS & Co. HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED 75 TONS Vannorman's celebrated Cooking and other Stoves, of new patterns, which (with their former stock) are now very complete.

BRITISH SADDLERY WAREHOUSE. Removed to Wellington Buildings, King-St. Toronto. ALEXANDER DIXON, SADDLER AND HARNESS MANUFACTURER, RESPECTFULLY informs the Gentry and Public of Upper Canada that he has just received [direct from England] a very extensive and fashionable assortment of SADDLERY GOODS,

CUTLERY, MILITARY & FANCY STORE. NO. 120, KING STREET, TORONTO. THE Subscriber tenders his grateful acknowledgments to his numerous customers, for the liberal encouragement he has received since his commencement in this City, and respectfully informs them, that he has received direct from England, a well selected stock of articles in the above line, partly consisting of—

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