THE LAY-READER.*

cut, in the year 1763, and baptized by a clergyman sustained by the "Society for Propagating the Gospel in openings for the Gospel and the Church. Foreign Parts." The war of the American Revolution suffered severely during the momentous period in question, and became, in many places, but a name; a name crated in 1784 by the Scottish prelates. Bishop Seabury was soon actively engaged in the great work of reviving the enfeebled parishes committed to his charge.the solemn ordinance of confirmation in the United this holy rite was the subject of our memoir, who had now attained the age of manhood, and had given unquestionable signs of a Christian character.

The parish of Waterbury was, at that time, without a clergyman, and Mr. Gunn, being a man of unimpeachable morals, was appointed a lay-reader. During the week he was engaged on his farm, but on Sunday he octhe Liturgy. Sometimes a clergyman visited the little flock; but such opportunities were not frequent, and for bours without fee or reward. But his family was now increasing, and his circumstances were greatly straitened. At length he determined to seek a home in the western country, which already presented a wide field to enterprise and industry. He first removed, about the year 1793, to Windham, in the western part of the State of New York. Here he established a small shop which vielded him a livelihood sufficient for his moderate wants. He soon found means to collect a few persons together, and to persuade them to unite with him in the performance of divine worship. He commenced, a second time, his vocation of lay-reader; and soon experienced the gratification of finding that his efforts were not in vain. The number of attendants gradually increased, until finally they organized a parish and obtained a clergyman. But Providence did not permit the subject of our memoir to enjoy the spiritual advantage of a pastor. He seemed destined to be a lay-reader; and by the silent influence of a blameless life, no less than by his direct exertions, he was to promote the truth among those who had few had recently been purchased by the inhabitants of Portsopportunities of hearing an official ambassador of God. | mouth, and the old man, with many others, was observ-

decided on removing into the fertile, but at that time, almost uninhabited region, bordering on the Ohio. Ac- the whole stream of water struck Mr. Gunn in the face. cordingly, having punctually paid his debts, he sallied crushing his right eye, and completely destroying its forth with a light heart, and a light purse, in quest of new toils and new means of usefulness.

It was in the autumn of 1805, that Mr. Gunn, with a wife and five children, commenced his long and fatiguing journey. An occurrence of a most distressing character soon wrung the affectionate heart of our layreader, and tried his faith to the utmost. While passing through the deep forest, one of his children fell from the waggon, and in a moment was crushed to death beneath the wheels. With his own hands the afflicted father dug a grave by the road-side, and having read the solemn burial-service of the Church, committed the remains of his beloved offspring to their kindred dust. In the month of November he reached the banks of the Ohio, and embarked with his family and little property on the noble river which was to bear him to his destination.

No steam-boat then ploughed the western waters; and it was only in long and narrow vessels, propelled by poles, and dragged by ropes, that the hardy boatmen could as- til a distinct building, of sufficient capacity, and easily cend the current. The passengers and goods destined accessible to all, had been obtained. He concluded for places down the stream, were conveyed in flat boats almost in the following words; "You know, my friends, of a temporary construction, which were broken up and that I am not rich, and that twice I have lost my all.sold when the voyage was completed In a vessel of this Yet Providence has given me enough, and my property latter kind, Mr. Gunn, with his little all, floated slowly

At length his boat was made fast near the village of Portsmouth, a place containing at that time not more than a dozen dwellings. There was, however, a dockvard in the vicinity, where a large ship was afterwards built, which descended the river 1500 miles to the gulph of Mexico, and was employed in the trade with Europe.

In so enterprising a neighbourhood Mr. Gunn was not idle. He purchased a small farm, and diligently employed himself in felling the trees, breaking up the rich soil, and sowing the seeds from which he hoped to provide his children's bread. And now the liturgy was heard probably for the first time on the shores of the Ohio.-Every Sunday, the lay-reader collected his family around him, and united with them in worship and praise. For many years none but his domestic circle attended on these occasions; but a providential circumstance soon enlarged his congregation. He thought it expedient to sell his farm, and remove into the village of Portsmouth, where he established himself as a cooper. He soon found that he was not the only churchman in the place; but that there were a few others who had been taught to believe in one Catholic and Apostolic Church. These gladly attended his reading, and assisted with their responses .-About this time, namely, in the year 1819, he received the grateful intelligence that a diocese had been organized in Ohio, and a Bishop elected and consecrated. To complete his gratification he learned that the new prelate was no stranger to him. The Rev. Philander Chase, the same missionary who, on more than one occasion, had slept under his roof, and dined at his table at Windham, in New-York, was now his bishop in the Far-West .-Mr. Gunn immediately took his pen, and wrote to his chief shepherd. He stated the importance of directly commencing regular services in Portsmouth. He mentioned the comfort which the few members of the Church in that increasing Village would derive from an Episcopal visit; and he concluded with earnestly requesting the hishop either to come himself, or send some clergyman to visit them at an early season. Bishop Chase was engaged in highly important busi-

ness when this letter arrived. He therefore sent the Rev. Mr. Morse, one of his most faithful clergymen, who was received at Portsmouth with unaffected cordiality. Once more, after an interval of fifteen years, our lay-reader was permitted to hear the word of life declared by a commissioned ambassador of Christ. In about a month afterwards the bishop himself arrived .-The court house was immediately prepared for religious worship, and a large-congregation, partly drawn by curiosity, and partly by a better feeling, soon assembled. The bishop delivered a plain and practical sermon, with that solemnity and that energy which seldom fail to produce a deep impression. Nor was this all. He remained in Portsmouth till he had gained the affection and respect of the people, had baptized and confirmed a number of

of which Mr. Gunn was elected senior warden. Having Samuel Gunn was born at Waterbury, in Connecti- regularly appointed Mr. Gunn to the office of lay-reader, he left Portsmouth, and went onward to discover new

For the third time our lay-reader occupied the desk; commenced while he was a child, and consequently, he but the people were, to a great extent, destitute of took no part in that fearful struggle. But the Church Prayer-books, and could not, of course, join in the responses. It was soon discovered that a printer in the village was in possession of a large number of these intoo, of obloquy and reproach. Yet Samuel Gunn con- valuable manuals of devotion, which he had long since timued faithful to his spiritual mother. He loved the laid away as unsaleable. They were immediately purvine which he believed the Son of God and his Apostles chased, and some at high prices. Money was then had planted; and though now broken and spoiled, he scarce, and one person actually gave twenty bushels of hoped to see the time when it would cover the land with corn for a single Prayer-book. For three years, Mr. its spreading branches, and when its leaves would be Gunn regularly performed the services. During this pefor the healing of the nations. The war having at length riod the village was visited most severely by disease. terminated, the clergymen in Connecticut rallied their Many who had taken a deep interest in the church miliremaining forces, and elected a bishop, who was conse- tant below were removed to the church triumphant above; and after several unhealthy seasons, few of the little congregation remained. In the year 1823; a clergyman residing in Chillicothe, fifty miles distant, consented to He ordained pastors, and was the first who performed officiate once a month in Portsmouth. This was a great benefit to the people, and a great relief to Mr. Gunn, States. Among the numbers who hastened to receive who had now attained his sixtieth year. The latter, notwithstanding, conducted worship, and read a Sermon on the intervening Sundays; and after two years, when Mr. Kellogg, the clergyman, left Ohio, he again took the entire labour upon himself. All this, it must be remembered, was entirely gratuitous, and the only recompense was that of a good conscience.

The congregation, now exceedingly small, was often eupied the desk, and conducted the devotions of a few a subject of ridicule to the thoughtless and the preinzealous Christians, according to the venerable forms of diced. The members of other denominations also frequently importuned the few Episcopalians to unite with them, on the assurance that a Church minister could neten or twelve years Mr. Gunn continued his useful la- ver be obtained. But the little community, attached by conviction to the distinctive principles of Episcopacy, never ceased to persevere in what they believed to be the way of truth. In 1831 they obtained a convenient room for their worship. They fitted it up with commodious seats and a pulpit; and here, after his recovery from a through Christ, of being admitted into those blesses severe illness, the aged lay-reader, with a trembling voice, continued to conduct their devotions. In the month of July, in the same year, he officiated for the to bear, whilst the presence of God cheers my soul, and last time.

Having been just ordained a deagon by Bishop Chase, I was sent by him to Portsmouth, where I received and accepted an invitation to take charge of the feeble congregation. My compensation was fixed at 200 dollars (£45) a year, which, with an additional hundred from the Diocesan Missionary Society, was enough to support existence at the low prices which then prevailed. scarcely had I officiated once in my new sphere of labour, when a frightful accident befel the good Mr. Gunn, which hastened his departure from the world. A fire-engine His circumstances becoming again embarrassed, he ing its operations. The person who directed the jet unfortunately permitted the tube to fall, and in an instant power of vision. For some time his condition was extremely precarious; and it was feared that a total loss of sight would be the result. At length nature rallied, and that I dread-It is a prison that frightens me, a partner with whom he recovered strength to walk. One eye was spared to him, but his former health was never restored. Yet the hope of immortality brightened upon him, and his conversation became more and more solemn and edifying .-The Church, too, was dearer to his heart than ever; and it was not long before he gave a proof of his sincerity which was the last crowning act of a life devoted to the service of God.

During the winter following the accident, he one day requested as many of the parishioners as could attend, to meet him on important business. A number of them accordingly assembled, and the old man, rising from his seat, represented to them in strong terms the importance of building a church. He showed them that no considerable accessions to their number could be expected, unis now a little more than two thousand dollars. Of this. I will give one-third towards the erection of the proposed edifice, on condition that you will contribute the remainder of the necessary amount." This offer was accepted with admiration and gratitude, and a sufficient sum was promptly subscribed.

But the lay-reader lived not to see the Church erected, nor even its corner-stone laid. A few months after his generous gift, his form became emaciated, and he was soon confined entirely to his bed. Religious services were sometimes held in his room, which evidently afforded him great delight. On one of these occasions his children and grand-children were present by special request. I took for my text, Eccles. xii. 1. "Remember ow thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." At the conclusion of the service, the pious veteran raised himself a little on his pillow, and spoke a few words in the most pathetic manner, labouring to impress upon his offspring a deep sense of the necessity of pure and practical religion. He represented the comfort which he felt in resting all his hopes on the great Atonement; and finally besought all his dear family to follow the narrow way of life, that he might ultimately enjoy the happiness of meeting them in heaven.

A clergyman, in priest's orders, visiting Portsmouth about this time, 'Mr. Gunn expressed his desire to partake of the holy communion. The sacred rite was accordingly administered to him, and he expressed the liveliest joy and consolation. Five days afterwards he breathed his last in perfect peace, having almost completed his seventieth year. Many hundred persons accompanied his remains to the burial-ground; for he had been a friend to all, and had been long regarded as an example of uprightness and integrity.

SUFFERINGS OF THE IRISH CLERGY.

Through what seas of trouble and deep waters of affliction have no small portion of the Irish clergy been of late years passing! I shall here relate a simple, and I think touching, anecdote of a clergyman's child, during the recent and severe trials of our Church. The family to which he belonged, were very highly connected. (I ention this circumstance, because it materially affects the interest of the case.) This little boy had lately lost his father, one of the brightest ornaments of the Irish Church: and his pious mother, with a family, of which he, about eleven years old, was the eldest, was thrown upon her brother, hinself a Clergyman, but reduced to much distress by the total withdrawal of his clerical income. One day he observed his mother apparently much afflicted, and in still deeper sorrow and dejection than he was accustomed to see. He gently approached her and said, "Mother, why are you so distressed? Is it about me and my brothers? Are you grieving because we cannot be bred as gentlemen? Ah! mamma, don't

as a carpenter?" Affecting as this picture may be, par-

servants of the Lord. They were withdrawn from the witness to the patience with which many a faithful Minister bore the hardest trial, perhaps, to which human

THE MOST INTERESTING SIGHT IN THE WORLD.

One day, the Rev. Henry Venn (Author of the New Whole Duty of Man) told his children that in the evenng he would take them to see one of the most interesting sights in the world. They were anxious to know what it was, but he deferred gratifying their curiosity till he had brought them to the scene itself. He led them to a miserable hovel, whose ruinous walls and broken windows, bespoke an extreme degree of poverty and want. "Now," said he, "my dear children, can any one that lives in such a wretched habitation as this be happy? Yet this is not all; a poor young man lies upon a miserable straw bed within it, dying of disease, at the age of only nineteen, consumed with constant fever, and afflicted with nine painful ulcers." "How wretched a situation!" they all exclaimed. He then led them into the cottage, and, addressing the poor young man said, "Abraham Midwood, I have brought my children here, to shew them that it is possible to be happy in a state of disease and poverty and want, and now, tell them, if it is not so." The dying youth, with a sweet smile of benevolence and piety, immediately replied, "Oh, yes sir! I would not change my state with that of the richest person upon earth, who was destitute of those views which I possess. Blessed be God! I have a good hope regions where Lazarus now dwells, having long forgotten all his sorrows and miseries. Sir, there is nothing whilst I can have access to Him, by constant prayer through faith in Jesus. Indeed, sir, I am truly happy and I trust to be happy and blessed through eternity and I every hour thank God, who has brought me from a state of darkness into His marvellous light, and has given me to enjoy the unsearchable riches of His grace!" The impression made by this discourse upon his young hearers, was never effaced .- Life of the Rov. H. Venn by his son, the Rev. J. Venn, edited by his grandson, Rev Henry Venn.

The Garner.

CONNEXION BETWEEN THE SOUL AND BODY.

Scarcely can I conceive, even to myself, this union between my body and my soul-how it is that I bear upon me the stamp of divinity, and that at the same time I grovel in the dust! Is my body in health, it wars against me-Is it sick, I languish with it in sympathy-It is at once a companion that I love, and an enemy I dwell. If I weaken it by excess, I become incapable of any thing noble; if I indulge it, or treat it with too much considera tion, it revolts, and my slave escapes me. It fastens me to the earth by ties I cannot break; and prevents me from taking my upward flight to God, for which end alone I was created. It is an nemy that I love, a treacherous friend whom it is my duty to distrust. To fear and yet to love! At once what union, and what discord! For what end, with what secret motive, is it that man has been thus organized? Is it not that God has seen it fit by this means to humble our pride, which might otherwise have carried us to the height of disdaining even our Creator, in the thought that, being derived from the same fount of being, we might be permitted to regard ourselves as on terms of equality with him? It is then to recal us incessantly to the sense of our entire dependence on him. that God has reduced our bodies to this state of frailty, which ex poses us to perpetual combats; balancing our nobleness by our baseness; holding us in suspense between death and immortality according to the affection which inclines us to the body or the soul; so that, if the excellencies of our souls should inspire us with pride, the imperfections inseparable from our bodies may brin us back to humility .- St. Gregory Nazianen.

HISTORY TEACHING BY EXAMPLE.

The store-house, and the very life of memory, is the History of time; and a special charge have we, all along the Scriptures, to call upon men to look to that. For, all our wisdom consisting either in experience or memory, experience of our own or memory of others, -our days are so short, that our experience can be but slender. We are but of yesterday (saith Job;) and our own time the Rev. H. Caswall, Brockville, U. C. cannot afford us observations enough for so many cases, as we need direction in. Needs must we then ask the former age, what they did in like case; search the records of former times, wherein our cases we shall be able to match, and to pattern them all. Solomon saith excellently, What is that that hath been? That that shall be : and back again, What is that that shall be? That that hath been: and there is nothing new under the sun of which it may be said, it is new, but it hath been already in the former generations. So that it is but turning the wheel, and setting before us some case of antiquity, which may sample ours, and either remembering to follow it, if it fell out well; or to eschew it, if the uccess were thereafter. For example: by Abimelech's story, King David reproveth his captains for pursuing the enemy too near the wall, seeing Abimelech miscarried by like adventure, and so maketh use of remembering Abimelech. And by David's example (that, in want of all other bread, refused not the shew-bread) Christ our Saviour defendeth His disciples in like distress, and sheweth that, upon such extremity, Necessity doth even give a Law, even to the Law itself .- Bishop Andrewes.

CHRISTIANITY.

Wherever Christianity goes, civilization follows in her train wherever she goes, the duties and the rights of mankind are practised and recognized; the fetters of the slave are lightened and removed: the female sex are restored to their natural situation and their kindly influence in society; and the profession of godliness is shewn to be great riches, as contributing to the wisdom, the wealth, and the happiness of the nation which receives it .-Let us compare our present condition with that of our forefathers while the Gospel was yet unknown to them! Let us recollect that the poorest man who now hears me is more warmly clad, more comfortably lodged, enjoys a mind better stored with ideas, and greater security of liberty, life, and property, than a king among the wild Americans or the ancient Britons; and we shall feel and understand the blessings of a religion, which has been a principal agent in a change so beneficial, a religion by which the ignorance of man is enlightened, and his manners rendered gentle, which by protecting the fruits of industry, has encouraged every useful nvention, and which, even awid the increasing luxury of the rich, has lessened the distance between them and the poor, by calling the attention of both to that awful moment when all shall be equal in each other's eyes, as they are now in the eyes of their

A large part of the world are heathens. I call those heathens, who either have no God at all, or false gods. Whoever is living Principal, personally, or by ltter [post paid]. you remember that our blessed Saviour was brought up without God in this world, whoever is walking after his own heart's lasts, whoever is the servant of sin, whoever speaks a good word ticularly when we consider the family connexions of the for it, and says of it, "What can it signify? there is no great

persons, and had effected the organization of a parish, parties, yet with many of the Clergy the doubt was, not harm in it; it is a mere trifle;" though he knows that God has whether they could educate their children in their own forbidden it, -whoever has set up his idel in his heart, and is sphere of life, but whether they could give them food worshipping Belial, the God of debauchery and profaneness, or to eat, and raiment to put on. It would require a far Moloch, the god of revenge and hatred and all fierce passions, or different pen from mine, to describe the scenes which Mammon, the god of riches and worldly-mindedness, -all these were acted in the once happy dwellings of these suffering | are heathens in spirit. They may have been christened; but they are not Christ's: they have left him, and chosen another master. notice of the world, but they were not hidden from the They may profess to believe in God, and may even draw night to eve of God, neither were they lost on Him. He was him with their lips; but their hearts are far from him. They deny him in their actions, and in their lives: what part then can they have in Christ? It is the duty of the preacher to tell such men, frailty can be exposed, that of being obliged to refuse that they must be looked upon as heathers. "Let him be to you the bread which his children asked. - Rev. H. Woodward. as a heathen man," is our Saviour's own sentence (Matt. xviii. 17) against persons calling themselves Christians, yet persisting in an evil course of living .- Rev. A. W. Hare.

> Fancy not that you lose your pleasures when you lose your sins, and that living to God will be an irksome task .- No! blessed be God! thousands can declare, that they never knew what it was to be redeemed from misery, till they were reclaimed from sin.

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UPPER CANADA COLLEGE. MR. JAMES DUFFY has been appointed Collector, and is authorised by the College Council to receive all sums, which are or hereafter may be due to this College.

July 5th, 1839.

JOHN M'CAUL, Principal. 3-4w

THE JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT SCHOOL. HE Midsummer Vacation will terminate on Tuesday July 24th. A few boarders in addition to the present number can be received. The terms are £30 per annum, always payable quarterly in advance. Theological Pupils, £50 per annum. Each Boarder is to provide his own Washing, Bed and Bedding, Towels and

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The Books of the Society will also be found for sale at Mr. Charles Hughes', Druggiet, Port Hope; -- and may be procured at Peterboro' on application to the Rev. C T. Wade; in Cavan, from the Rev. S. Armour, and in Darlington, from the Rev. T. S. Kennedy. Cobourg, July 16, 1839.

HENRY ROWSELL. BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

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Toronto, 28th June, 189.

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Toronto, May 24, 1839.

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MRS. BROWN begs respectfully to acquaint her friends and the public, that she has removed from her former residence to that large and commodious house in the town of Cobourg, formerly occupied by the Bank of Upper Canada; where the business of her school will be conducted as usual, and two additional boarders

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an English Education, - - £1 5 0 pr. Qr. do. to pupils learning music, 1 0 0 do. Music, with use of piano, extra, 1 15 0 do. French, extra, - - - 1 5 0 do. Dancing, extra, - - 1 5 0 do. As the number of the boarders will be limited to six,

an early application is requested. The present vacation will terminate on the 24th July, inst-Cobourg, July 6, 1839. 2-3m.

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H. J. GRASETT, Secretary and Treasurer.

Toronto, June 8, 1839. JUSTPUBLISHED.

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[R. D. CHATTERTON, PRINTER.]

Messrs. Swords, Stanford, & Co., New York.

* From the Rev. Henry Caswall's "America and the American Church."