

song. Onward through all the Christian dispensation, the greatest musical compositions have gathered around the Bible. Each would never have been heard of beyond a small circle, if his musical genius had limited its efforts to the opera. But his glorious passion music has acquired its world-wide fame, because Christ is the central theme. His celebrated contemporary, George Frederick Handel, composed hundreds of pieces for the stage, and they are buried in the oblivion of the past; but his magnificent oratorio "The Messiah," has given him a world wide renown. Mendelssohn was a brilliant man in his profession, but his musical powers found their loftiest expression, only when he united with his famous predecessors to exalt, "The name that is above every name." And today the best musical talent is linked to the cathedrals, and abbeys and churches, where the "Wonderful Name" is revered, adored and sang.

IV. PAINTINGS.—If you travel through the great galleries of the old world, you will find that each nation has its own national events represented on canvas, but in vain will you find duplicates of one nation's historical events in the gallery of another nation. But in every picture gallery in the whole world, worthy of being called such, you will find a duplicate of "The Madonna and Child." Alongside Leonardo de Vinci's "Last Supper" Peter Rubens' great masterpiece the "Descent from the Cross," Raphael's immortal picture "The Transfiguration," Michel Angelo's "Last Judgment," Gustave Doré's "Christ leaving the Prætorium," Munkacsy's "Christ before Pilate." Nothing can be found that will compare with these among the secular subjects in the galleries today for true and abiding glory and power.

V. ARCHITECTURE.—Again the old world must be visited to see that the most exalted conceptions, and most abiding structures that blend strength and beauty are those which place the name of Jesus "above every name." Cathedrals, abbeys, churches and chapels lift their domes and spires toward the deep, blue sky, speechful of the reverence and adoration of millions of human-kind, of the pre-eminence they give the name and person of the Immortal Son of God, JESUS.

Rev. J. C. Morse and Others.

BY REV. E. M. SAUNDERS, D. D.

No 4.

When in these exceptional states of fervor the gospel from his lips has irresistible power. The sweetness and light of a holy life, and a heart aflame with love, and gifts special and rare have made Dr. Morse a powerful herald of divine truth. These seasons have invariably been followed by revivals of religion—"reformatations."

When the revival in which Dr. Morse, and the other ministers named got out before the public as preachers was at its height, a zealous Episcopalian, who saw that his church from having been full for many years was nearly empty, enquired of a local magistrate if there was no way by which these Methodists and Baptists could be stopped by law from holding meetings. He was told there was no way of doing it. This was one of the last weak echoes of the spirit of persecution heard in these provinces. If you had, O Episcopalian, preached the gospel to the people of Upper Aylesford they would not have run after the Baptists and Methodists. You starved them and they went elsewhere for bread.

The Academy had been in operation for more than ten years and the College was in existence when these young men threw away their falls, axes and hoes and went into the pulpit. Why did they not go to Wolfville? James Parker's name is on the list of students at Horton Academy. J. C. Morse said to Dr. Crawley behind the old Bridgetown meeting-house, I will do just as you tell me. If you say go to Horton, to Horton I will go. If you say return to the pulpit on Digby Neck and carry on the revival, I will return. Go back, said the good doctor, I will give you books. Read much. Study the Scriptures. Watch the over-rulings of Providence. Back he went. Dr. Crawley kept his eye on him. At Associations he cultivated his acquaintance. He had the modest young man to ride with him, to room with him. He saw the material of which he was made. He talked to him. Not a word was lost on the young man. The old fathers set J. C. Morse and the other young ministers the example of fervent piety and earnest preaching. Added to these influences Dr. Crawley set before them lofty ideals, the importance of reading and study and the virtue of mental training. Horton Academy and Acadia College were useful to all of these men—to some more than to others. Dr. John C. Morse enriched himself from these sources. When the times were rushing on he girded himself tighter for the race. He would not be kept behind; he is not behind.

Let us track him along by the revivals he has passed through, 1842, baptisms, 24; 1843, 12; 1844, 11; 1845, no letter; 1846, 3; 1847, 0; 1848, 0; 1849, no letter; 1850, 54; 1851, 21; 1852, 0; 1853, 9; 1854, 21; 1855, 65; 1856, 1; 1857, 2; 1858, 0; 1859, no letter; 1860, 0; 1861, 6; 1862, no letter; 1863, 17; 1864, no letter; 1865, no letter; 1866, no letter; 1867, 1; 1868, 29; 1869, page gone; 1870, 1; 1871, 28; 1872, no letter; 1873, 2; 1874, 0; 1875, 2; 1876, 0; 1877, 38; 1878, 27; 1879, 5; 1880, 10; 1881, 4; 1882, 0; 1883, 1; 1884, 8; 1885, 3; 1886, 2; 1888, 1; 1889, 0; 1890, 0; 1891, 2; 1892, 6; 1893, 44; 1894, 0; 1895, 43; 1896, 6; 1897, 9. Total 496 baptisms. There may have been more baptisms. For eight years there were no letters, of two years I have not the statistics. Outside of this there was much work on Long Island and Brier Island and other parts of the western section of Nova Scotia.

Dr. J. C. Morse is logical, has keen metaphysical insight, a brilliant imagination, the fervid fancy of a poet and an emotional temperament capable of all moods.

Remarkable incidents have been the means of turning the attention of Mr. Morse to various subjects of inquiry. One Sunday morning he saw in the gallery, a man listening very attentively to his preaching, on enquiry he found that he had lately come to the place as a cooper. On Sundays, when there was no service in the church this man would go to a high bluff overlooking Sandy Cove, kindle a fire and sit by it and read. His name was Millar. Mr. Morse found in him a well read and very intelligent man. Among his books was one on geology by a German author, which undertook to prove that the Bible account of the creation of the world was untrue. He gave this book to Mr. Morse to read. He read it and was dissatisfied. He lost no time in obtaining the works of Gesner, Sir Wm. Lawson and Sir Charles Lyell, on this subject. In this way he equipped himself to refute the teaching of the German author.

As Digby neck is an extension of the north mountain of the Annapolis Valley, and as Sandy Cove was caused by a rent and upheaval of the trap, and came near being another passage between the two Bays, Mr. Morse was in a good place to find illustrations of the science, the study of which was started by the Scotchman. Mineralogy followed. The study of these two subjects has been to him a refreshing pastime. Sir William Dawson and many other geologists have made his acquaintance and helped him forward in his researches. When Dr. Forrester lectured for the first time on education at Digby, and had only about a dozen hearers, Mr. Morse happened to be one of them. He moved a vote of thanks and spoke in so appreciative a way of the lecture, and withal so intelligently, that Dr. Forrester was charmed with him and at the close of the meeting grasped him warmly by the hand. From that moment they were warm friends. Mr. Morse called the Doctor's attention to what Dr. Haven had said of the duty of the state in the matter of public education. Dr. Forrester preached for Mr. Morse and the two congenial spirits had hours of high fellowship together. One day after listening to Dr. Forrester preach, Mr. Morse said to him, you remind me of Andrew Fuller. Oh, said Dr. Forrester, he is one of my models.

The Digby Neck church was organized in 1809. Rev. Peter Crandall was pastor of it for about 30 years. Dr. Morse has been pastor about 58 years. Is there another Baptist church in America, 88 years old, that has had but two pastors and the second one able to preach three times a Sunday, half of the time, and twice the other half, and drive twelve miles to do it? Is there a church which has had for 88 years two such pastors as the late Peter Crandall and the living John C. Morse, D. D.?

What is Man?

It is easy to degrade man in our thought, because he has degraded himself through sin. The dictionary is full of words that express the meanness, malignity, misery, wickedness, wretchedness, wrong and ruin of man, and these words would never have gotten into any dictionary of any language, ancient or modern, if the qualities they describe had not first gotten into the mind and heart and life of man. But the dictionary has other testimony also. It has another class of words, that portray qualities of majesty, magnificence, goodness, holiness, loyalty, love, knowledge, truth, wisdom, spiritual perfectness; and these words could not have been formed had they not been needed to set forth the aspirations, hopes and possibilities of man. Paul finds some terrific words, made ready to his hand, wherewith to name the terrific things discovered in the heart of man, in the first chapter of his Letter to the Romans; but words also rise, spontaneous and sweet as the strains of an Æolian harp, when he tells of the "fruit of the Spirit of God" in man—"love, joy, peace, long-suffering kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control."

The real man is the ideal man—man as God made him, in God's image and after God's likeness, and as Christ is re-making him, after his own divine image, and as a "new creation in Christ." Man, as we see him now, is a paradox, an anomaly, a perplexing riddle, because both sets of words may be truthfully applied to him. He is god-like or demon-like, according to the side of him which we contemplate. Pascal cries out:

"What a chimera is man! What a novelty, what a monster, what a chaos, what a subject of contradiction, what a prodigy! A judge of all things, feeble worm of the earth, depository of the truth, cloaca of uncertainty and error, the glory and shame of the universe."

Shakespeare, penetrating to that which is deepest and truest, exclaims:

"What a piece of work is man! How noble is reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god!"

Robert Browning, coming still closer in his thought, profoundly and with clear insight assures us:

"Take all in a word: The truth in God's breast Lies trace for trace upon ours impressed; Though He is so bright and we so dim, We are made in his image to witness Him."

And the Hebrew Psalmist, from whom all these poets and seers have gained their inspiration, in adoration and sublime exaltation lifts up his voice:

"What is man, that thou dost keep him in mind; Or the son of man, that thou dost look after him; Thou has made him a little lower than God; Thou has crowned him with glory and honor; Thou has enthroned him over the works of thy hands; Thou has subjected all things under his feet; O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

The great Scotch philosopher, Sir William Hamilton, kept suspended in his class room, where all his students could see them, these lines:

"On earth there is nothing great but man; In man there is nothing great but mind."

Rightly interpreted, the philosopher was right. Man is, by birthright and divine heredity, the king of the earth. He is, as both heathen poet and Christian apostle declare him, the "offspring of God," that is, he springs from divine parentage and is heir to divine kinship. He is not an animal; his body is but his tool and garment; his closest relations are not with the irrational beasts, but with the hierarchy of angels, and with him who, being eternally the brightness of the Father's glory, became incarnate in the likeness of man. Sin is no part of man's essential nature. Sin is abnormal, unnatural; by it man is dehumanized; man is less than man by just how much he is a sinner.

To know man we must also know God as he is revealed in Jesus Christ. Christ is the ideal man made actual and historic, and in him every other man can attain God's idea of him. As the fairest pearls lie imbedded in the ooze of the ocean's depths, so the eyes of Christ can see the real and possible man in the most degraded sinner, whether clothed in the gay robes of Dives or the foul rags of Lazarus. We must learn to look upon men with the eyes of Christ. It is well to study physiologies and psychologies, but we shall never thus know what man is. Man is the being whom God loves, and for whom Christ died, that he might make him completely and eternally like himself.—The Commonwealth.

Notes from the East and the West.

BY D. G. MACDONALD.

DEAR EDITOR,—The dream of many years has actually materialized and I find myself in the great West. It was hard to tear ourselves away from the dear friends in North Sydney, but duty seemed to call this way. Our stay with the brethren there was most cordial and harmonious, and not without some fruit. Seventy-eight were added to the church and the finances made about \$400 easier during the two years. On the last Lord's day morning there it was my privilege to give the hand of fellowship to twenty-three, and to baptize again in the evening. May the Lord send there one of His most faithful servants, and that without delay. Numerous and tangible evidences of love and good-will were given to Mrs. Macdonald and myself, which are highly appreciated. We pray that God's richest blessing may ever abide with the donors.

We left there on Monday morning and, after spending twenty-four hours in Chicago, arrived here on Saturday evening. No warmer welcome could be given than that which awaited us. How surprised and pleased were we to see the genial face of our old friend and fellow-laborer, Rev. E. J. Grant, as we stepped from the car! The kind consideration of the brethren here led them to secure him to add interest to the reception accorded us and share in the work of the first Lord's day. The objects desired were fully attained.

The reception commenced on our arrival on Saturday evening was continued in a more public way on Monday evening, when a tea and social hour, followed by a platform meeting, were enjoyed,—the former in the hands of the ladies of the church; the latter under the leadership of Bro. Grant. The whole was most enjoyable and certainly reached the end desired. At the platform meeting four of the pastors of the town delivered addresses of cordial welcome and hearty good-will. The church edifice erected very recently through the blessing of God upon the energy and consecration of this noble band of Baptists under the leadership and enthusiasm of Bro. Hall, is a perfect gem, beautiful and commodious in all its appointments. The church impresses me as an excellent band of Christian workers. Congregations are good and everywhere give evidences of thrift and intelligence.

In conclusion permit me to say to my friends, that whatever be the purpose of the dear Lord in bringing us out into this great country of cold prairies and warm hearts, we now find ourselves most comfortably situated and with good prospects for usefulness. We never were more comfortable before, our home is warm, convenient, and commodious. Our friends are not few and all seem true. Already we feel perfectly at home and long to be used, more than ever before, for the glory of our Lord in this great and glorious country.

Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, Dec. 14th.

P. S.—It would be premature to speak of the effect of the change on Mrs. Macdonald's health, but this I can say with gratitude that since leaving our home in the East she has not had a symptom of the head trouble from which, at intervals of about ten days, she suffered severely for the eighteen months previously. This improvement encourages us all the more in view of the fact that an eminent physician consulted in Chicago attributed the trouble entirely to climatic causes. The few months' engagement here, as a supply for Bro. Hall, gives a good opportunity to test the accuracy of his conclusion. We thank God for the encouragement already received.