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WHOLE No. 644.

Religious Miscellany.

My Guest.

I have a wondrous guest,
Who speeds my feet, who moves my hands,
Who strengthens, comforts, guides, commands—
Whose presence gives me rest.

He dwells within my soul,
He sweeps away the filth and gloom,
He garnishes fair the empty room,
And now pervades the whole.

For aye by day and night,
He keeps the portal, suffers naught
To be the temple He has bought,
And filled with joy and light.

Once 'twas a cavern dim;
The home of evil thoughts, desires,
Enkindled by infernal fires,
Without one thought of Him.

Regenerate by His grace,
Still 'tis a meagre inn at best,
For the great King to His rest,
And show His glorious face.

Yet, Saviour, ne'er depart
From this poor earthly cottage home,
Until the Father bid me come,
Whispering within my heart—

"I shake these cottage walls;
Fear not; at My command they bow;
My heavenly mansion open now,
As this poor dwelling falls."

Then my dear wondrous Guest
Shall bear me in his own right hand
Unto that far-off Promised Land,
Where in His bliss I rest.

A Word Fitly Spoken.

The daughter of an English nobleman was providentially brought under the influence of the followers of Wesley, and thus came to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. The father was almost distracted at the event, and by threats, temptations, and extravagances in dress, by reading, and travelling in foreign countries, and places of fashionable resort, took every means in his power to divert her mind from "things unseen and eternal." But her "heart was shielded." The God of Abraham had become her field, and her exceeding great reward, and she was determined that nothing should deprive her of her infinite and eternal portion in Him, or displace Him from the centre of her heart.

At last the father resolved upon a final and desperate experiment by which his end should be gained, or his daughter ruined so far as her prospects in life were concerned. A large company of the nobility were invited to his house. It was so arranged that during the festivities the daughters of different noblemen, and among others this one, were to be called on to entertain the company with singing and music on the piano. If she complied, she parted with heaven and returned to the world. If she refused compliance, she would be disgraced, and lose the possibility of recovery, her place in society. It was a dreadful crisis, and with a peaceful confidence did she await it. As the crisis approached, different individuals, at the call of the company, performed their parts with the greatest applause. At last the name of his daughter was announced. In a moment all were in fixed, silent suspense, to see how the scale of destiny would turn. Without hesitation she arose, and with calm and dignified composure, took her place at the instrument. After a moment spent in silent prayer, she ran her fingers along the keys, and then, with an unearthly sweetness, elevation, and solemnity, sang, accompanying her voice with notes of the instrument, the following stanzas—

"No room for mirth or trifling here,
For worldly love or worldly care,
If now the judge is at the door,
And all mankind must stand before
The inexorable throne!

"No matter which my thoughts employ—
A moment's misery or joy,
But oh! when both shall end,
Where shall I find my destined place?
Shall I my everlasting day
With those of angels spend?

"Nothing is worth a thought beneath,
But how I may escape the death
That never sleeps, and never dies,
How may my own election arise,
When I fall on earth, secure
A mansion in the skies?

"Jesus, thou hast a pitying ray;
Be Thou my guide, be Thou my way;
To glorious happiness,
Oh! strike the pardon on my heart!
And whensoever I here depart,
Let me depart in peace!"

The minstrel ceased. The solemnity of eternity was upon the assembly. Without speaking, they dispersed. The father wept aloud, and, when left alone, sought the prayers and counsel of his daughter for the salvation of his soul. His soul was saved, and his great estate consecrated to Christ.

I would rather be the organ of communicating such thoughts in such circumstances, and aid in the production of such results—would rather possess wisdom than to speak as occasion requires—than to possess all that is finite beneath. What hymn, what thought in the universe, could be substituted for the one then uttered! The time, the occasion, the thought expressed, the hallowed and sweet manner of this utterance, present full realization of all that is embraced in our idea of fitness. That surely was a word "fitly spoken."

Prayer Signally Answered.

Perhaps the most signal characteristic of the recent revival of religion in our own country, in the British Isles, in Sweden, and elsewhere is, that the gracious influence of the Spirit have been granted in answer to prayer. Revivalists and evangelists have not been employed as in former years. Christians of different names have gone directly to God by prayer, and sought him with humiliation, penitence, and faith; and he has heard, sent down his Spirit, given power to his preached word, and to the appeals of his people. In our large cities and towns, men of business have left their stores and shops at noonday for the place of prayer, and thousands have been made the subjects of God's converting power. At these meetings the most hopeless sinners have been

convicted of sin and brought into the fold of Christ. The friends of Jesus have presented relatives and associates for special remembrance at the throne of grace, and with surprising results.

One instance of the blessing of the Spirit in answer to prayer, which came to my own personal knowledge, was very striking. It occurred while I was ministering to a Baptist church in South-eastern Massachusetts, where the congregation consisted chiefly of seamen. In the winter of 1841 many were brought to Christ, and the converts were mostly of the strong men of that occupation. The most marked instances of converting power were the fruit, and made an impression on my mind and heart never to be effaced.

Among these was one in particular that seemed almost a miraculous answer to prayer. While employed in the meetings of the revival for successive days and weeks, an aged female of the church, always esteemed as a godly, praying woman, after a short illness was called to her rest above. She was remarkably sustained by her faith in the promises of God, and died in peace and triumph; but in her last hours was exceedingly anxious and distressed for her only son, then away at sea and the master of a vessel, and the last words on her dying lips were prayer for this loved son. Indeed, she remarked that she could die in peace if she had the assurance that he was a child of God and was prepared to meet her in the world of glory.

A few days after her death and burial, this son returned home, and was at once at our meetings and with the deepest interest. I soon met him at our inquiry-meeting, but in conversation with him was surprised to find him a decided and earnest Christian man. I requested him to give me a little sketch of his exercises in passing from sin and worldliness to this state of hope and joy. He informed me, that one night while on board his vessel out at sea, he was suddenly reminded of his home, and particularly of his aged and sainted mother, who had so long felt such anxiety for the salvation of his soul. He thought of her words of warning, exhortation, and prayer, and that possibly he should listen to them no more. So affecting and impressive were his reflections, that he searched for the Bible given to him by her, and opened and read words appropriate to his condition as a sinner and needing a Saviour. Such a view did he have of himself as a lost sinner before God, that he closed his Bible, fell upon his knees, confessed his sins, and gave himself up to Christ in all his guilt as his only help. Light at once burst on his mind, and joy filled his soul while thus trusting his all to the Saviour of sinners, and he arose from his knees but to praise God for the change wrought in him. I required of him the time when this occurred and to my surprise found that it was the very night on which his mother died, and the very hour when she prayed so earnestly for her son, and in which she was of conversion. I never knew, nor a more marked answer to prayer.

A few weeks after this I baptized this son, and from that time to this, nineteen years, he has honored his profession. Who can doubt the efficacy of prayer? What Christian will not receive fresh encouragement, and resort to it with more faith and earnestness?

D. C. H.

A Brief Pastoral Charge.

I charge you—my young brother, to take care of your body. Eat nothing which does not agree with your digestive apparatus—masticate it well—take regular and sufficient exercise daily—go to bed at 10 o'clock, P. M., and rise at 6 o'clock A. M., and maintain "a prudent, cautious, self-control over your animal passions."

I charge you—to take care of your mind. Discipline and furnish it daily. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly with all wisdom." "Make continual and choice additions to your stores of knowledge—otherwise, constantly pouring out, as you will be called to do, your barrel will soon run empty."

I charge you—to take care of your heart. Keep it with all diligence. Be watchful and prayerful. Unless the principle of grace implanted within you is kept vigorous and thriving, you will not be happy in your sacred calling, nor successful in it, nor be a fit example to Christians, in charity, in faith, in purity.

I charge you—to take care of your Doctrine. Let it be that which was once delivered unto the saints—preserve it uncorrupted, faithfully preach it in season, out of season—contend earnestly for it—and see that your flock be rooted and grounded in it.

Taking this course—keeping your body under subjection, stocking your mind with precious prayer, keeping your doctrine according to Divine Revelation; and having to work in public and in private, in the sanctuary and from house to house, "as the rain upon the grass, and as the dew upon the tender herb"—you will make full proof of your ministry, and when the Chief Shepherd appears, will receive a crown of glory that fades not away.—*Religious Herald.*

Indian Summer.

Light as love's smiles the silvery mist at morn
Flows in notes upon the soft breeze borne,
The bluebird's notes upon the soft breeze borne,
As high in air his carole faintly quiver;
The weeping birch, like banners july waving,
Bends to the stream, its spicy branches laving;
Beaded with dew, the witch elm's tassels shiver;

The timid rabbit from the furze is peeping,
And from the springy sprig the squirrel's gayly leaping.

I love thee, Autumn, for thy scenery, ere
The blasts of winter chase the varied dyes
That richly decked the slow declining year;
I love the splendor of thy sunset skies,
The gorgeous hues that tinge each falling leaf,
Lovely as beauty's cheek—as woman's love, too brief;

I love the note of each wild bird that flies,
As on the wind he pours his parting lay,
And wings his loitering flight to summer climes away.

O Nature! still I fondly turn to thee
With feelings fresh as'er my childhood's were;

Though wild and passion-toss'd my youth may be
Toward thee I still the same devotion bear;
To thee—to thee—though health and hope no more
Life's wasted verdure may to me restore—
I still can, childlike, come as when in prayer
I bowed my head upon a mother's knee,
And deemed the world, like her, all truth and purity.

Religious Intelligence.

Bermuda.

THE UNION PRAYER-MEETING AT ST. GEORGE'S. For some months intelligence has been coming across the Atlantic to the effect that in England, Ireland, Scotland, &c. Now we would read that at London, "there was an immense concourse of people gathered into many large companies of attentive listeners to preachers of all grades, from the church clergyman to the mechanic boy." Again we would read of our bishops, rectors, curates, the Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and Baptist clergy being met with thousands of their parishioners for union prayer, and that God met them in a peculiar manner. When reading those wonderful accounts of Divine manifestations, which send a thrill of joy to the heart of every lover of Christ, we have been led to ask: will this ever be the case in Bermuda? Will our clergymen follow the praiseworthy example of our bishops, yea, the example of a greater than bishops even, St. Paul, who was made all things to all men that he might by all means save some? And while we have ardently desired, and earnestly prayed that this might be so, the prospects have been few, and unpropitious, until very lately. Our churches seem to have fallen into a Laodicean atmosphere; and while we have to confess that they were not, we have to confess that they were not assisting each other as they ought, to fight the common foe. But thanks to a kind providence, that in the midst of our spiritual lethargy, Capt. Kerr, of the Engineers, arrived here filled with zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. He called for all denominations of Christians to meet for union prayer. The first meeting was held in the Town Hall on the evening of the 23rd ult. At the time appointed, the hall was well filled, many having to go away without being able to enter. Capt. Kerr presided, and used the little collection of hymns sent to us by the Rev. W. Ryan, Wesleyan minister, and Mr. Toddings, clerk to the Church of England, followed each other in prayer, at the close of which they sang a few moments in silent communion with God, and the captain offered the closing prayer, and dismissed the congregation with the apostolic benediction. Thus ended the first union prayer-meeting held in this town; and it was one of the most reverential, solemn, and gracious meetings that it was ever our privilege to attend. Every Christian must have been blessed and strengthened for the battle of life; and if there was one soul present who felt not the power of God we envy not that callous heart. Probably a more pleasing meeting in the sight of Heaven was never held in this town before; and certainly never one that so much resembled Heaven—in Heaven all the redeemed worship together—whatever were their names on earth, in Heaven they mingle their praises together, and the meeting on earth, in which all evangelical Christians forget every name but the name of Jesus, and offer their united prayers and praises, most resembles Heaven.

The second meeting was held on the evening of the 7th of July, these papers were given to the authorities. On the morning of the 8th, I was placed in solitary confinement, and on the following day this wretched man was set at liberty; and not only this, but he was permitted to occupy my former room for the space of a week, for the purpose of examining mine and my papers, to discover, if possible, some further proofs of my supposed guilt. One day he called me to a parlor, and showed me a letter to my dear friends in Dublin, my answer to it, two letters from my family, and a letter from pastor R. He thought he had secured all that was necessary to prove my participation in the crime of which I was suspected. On the evening of the 7th of July, these papers were given to the authorities. 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