

pet to rise and ascend to the bosom of her Saviour, whom she served and owned on earth.

I will not murmur. The Lord has been very gracious to me in this hour of trial. He has given me abundant consolations, the comforts of his Spirit, which are neither few nor small. It remains for me now to buckle on my armour, and to go forth anew in the strength of his grace, to preach salvation in the name of his Son. The dispensation which has rendered the nearest kindred ties that bound me to the earth, is indeed dark and mysterious; but upon it all light is already shining. Upon my release from a long protracted sick room, I find myself in the midst of an extensive revival of religion, and surrounded by a goodly company who sympathize with me, all of whom are either rejoicing in hope, or anxiously enquiring the way of salvation. My house is visited from morning until bed time, by persons seeking the light of life. Had I time and breath to spare, I might make this house of mourning a Bethel, where prayer and praise would constantly attend, by night and day, unto the Lord of Hosts, the everlasting refuge of his people.

On the Sabbath after Mrs. B.'s interment, I delivered from the pulpit a short account of her life, the manner of her education, the motives that induced her to leave her country and friends to dwell in this land of strangers, her labors of love with them at this place, her prayers for their salvation, and her dying charge to them as her pupils. I have reason to believe the discourse was blessed to the conversion of many precious souls. Many were the heads that hung down, and the eyes that overflowed; and many, I have since had reason to believe, were led to cry for mercy. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, for his mercy endureth forever. Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vine, the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat,—yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

The following fact is recorded in an obituary notice of Mrs. Lydia Dearborn, of Boston:—

"One of the many proofs of this strength and cast of character, is fully substantiated by her correcting a deformity in the feet of one of her children. It was born bent up to the front bone, without the appearance of a correct and perfect ankle or heel. When two days of age, this anxious parent commenced an operation by gentle bandages, to bring down this crooked limb to a natural and useful position. These bandages were renewedly tightened, as often as the health and strength of the infant would permit. In a little time a wooden sole was put to a cloth shoe, with side supporters; then leather, and lastly an iron shoe, with iron splinters for the sides, to give additional force to the operation. Thus, step by step, for twelve years did this good matron advance firmly to the praiseworthy object of altering the perpendicular position of the foot to a horizontal one; when, after putting on and tightening the bandages but little short of eighty thousand times, complete success crowned her efforts, the bands were removed, and the once crooked foot could never since be discovered from the straight one, in any walk or 'mazy dance' of life. The daughter still lives to bless the memory of her affectionate parent; and the principles and facts of this fact, as also the shoes are preserved, for the benefit of those who may be placed in a similar situation with their offspring."

May not a valuable hint be derived from the foregoing fact in relation to the moral deformities of children? Let the same attention be given to the correction of bad passions, and wayward follies, and what a change might we not discover in the moral constitution of the rising generation? This mother patiently sits down and bandages and re-bandages the decrepid foot of her child eighty thousand times.—Were we to apply the bracing admonitions of parental kindness, and to accompany all with our affectionate prayers to God for our naughty offspring, whose only crime is their having inherited our nature, might we not reasonably expect a blessing?—*Col. Star.*

LITERATURE.

OF THE AIR AND ATMOSPHERE.

The exterior part of this our habitable world, is the air or atmosphere; a light thin fluid, or springy body, that encompasses the solid earth on all sides, and partakes of all its motions, both annual and diurnal.

The composition of that part of our atmosphere, called air, was till lately but very little known.—Formerly it was supposed to be a simple, homogeneous, and elementary fluid. But the experiments of Dr. Priestly and others have discovered, that even the purest kind of air, which they call vital or dephlogisticated, is in reality a compound, and might be artificially produced in various ways. This dephlogisticated air, however, is but a small part of the composition of our atmosphere. By accurate experiments, the air we usually breathe, is composed of only one-fourth part of this dephlogisticated air, or perhaps less, the other three parts, or more, consisting of what Mr. Priestly calls *phlogisticated*, and M. Lavoisier, in the new chemistry, *mephitic* air, which cannot be breathed, and in which animals die.

Though air seems to be a kind of repository, wherein all the poisonous effluvia arising from putrid and corrupted matters are lodged; yet it has a wonderful faculty of purifying itself, and of depositing those vapours contained in it; so that it never becomes noxious except in particular places, and for a short time; the general mass remaining upon all occasions pretty much the same. The way in which this purification is effected is different, according to the nature of the vapour with which the air is loaded. That which most universally prevails is water; and from experiments it appears, that the quantity of aqueous vapour contained in the atmosphere is immense. Dr. Halley, from an experiment on the evaporation from a fluid surface heated to the same degree with that given by our meridian sun, has calculated, that the evaporation from the Mediterranean Sea in a summer's day is 5280 millions of tons of water, which is more than it receives from all the nine large rivers that empty themselves into it. Dr. Watson, in his Chemical Essays, has given an account of some experiments made with a view to determine the quantity of water raised from the earth itself alone in time of drought. He informs us, that when there had been no rain for above a month, and the grass was become quite brown and parched, the evaporation from an acre was not less than 1600 gallons in 24 hours. Making afterwards two experiments, when the ground had been wetted by a thunder shower the day before, the one gave 1973, the other 1905 gallons, in 12 hours. From this the air is every moment purified by the ascent of the vapour, which, rising off into the clouds, thus leaves room for the exhalation of fresh quantities; so that as the vapour is considerably lighter than the common atmosphere, and in consequence ascends with greater velocity, the air during all this time is said to be *dry*, notwithstanding the vast quantity of aqueous fluid that passes through it.

In the physical economy also, another provision is made for the continual renovation of the atmosphere. Plants derive subsistence from the very air that is unfit for animal life and in return actually emit that vital or dephlogisticated air, upon the enjoyment of which the latter depends. Thus we see a constant circulation of benefits maintained between the two great provinces of organized nature. The plant purifies what the animal had poisoned; in return, the contaminated air is more than ordinarily nutritious to the plant. Agitation with water appears to be another of these restoratives. The foulest air shaken in a bottle with water for a sufficient length of time, recovers a great degree of its purity. Here then again, allowing for the scale upon which nature works, we see the salutary effects of *storms* and *tempests*. The yesty waves, which confound the heaven and the sea, are doing the very thing which is done in the bottle and are a perpetual source of freshness to our atmosphere.

The atmosphere, as we have seen, contains a great deal of water, together with a vast heterogeneous collection of particles raised from all bodies of matter on the surface of the earth, by effluvia, exhalations, &c. so that it may be considered as a chaos of the particles of all sorts of matter confusedly mingled together. And hence the atmosphere has been considered as a large chemical vessel, in which the matter of all kinds of sublimary bodies is copiously floating; and thus exposed to the continual action of that immense surface, the sun; from whence proceed innumerable operations, sublimations, separations, 'compositions, digestions, fermentations, putrefactions, &c.

There is, however, one substance, namely, the electrical fluid, which is very distinguishable in the

mass of the atmosphere. To measure the absolute quantity of this fluid, either in the atmosphere, or any other substance, is perhaps impossible; and all that we know on this subject is, that the electric fluid pervades the atmosphere; that it appears to be more abundant in the superior than the inferior regions; that it seems to be the immediate bond of connection between the atmosphere and the water, which is suspended in it; and that, by its various operations, the phenomena of the meteors are occasioned.

It is the opinion of the most celebrated philosophers of the present day, that the electric fluid is no other than the light of the sun; that it issues from that luminary in the pure state of *electricity*, that joining particles of our atmosphere, it becomes *light*, and uniting with the grosser earth, *fire*. The evaporation of water is attended with an absorption of this fluid from the surface of our globe, and on the other hand, the conversion of steam into water, is attended with a deposition of this subtle fluid; so that there is a circulation in the electric fluid as there is in the water. It descends originally from the sun, pervades the whole substance of the globe; and perspiring, as it were, at every pore, ascends beyond the clouds; and passing the extreme boundaries of our atmosphere, returns to the sun from whence it came.

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

SURVEY OF THE PROTESTANT MISSIONARY STATIONS, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD,

[CONTINUED.]

These arrangements were communicated to the Missionaries.

—In order that they might accordingly regulate their visits to the Villages of catechizing the persons under instruction.

The extent of authority and direction conveyed by the term "catechizing" appearing dubious to the Missionaries, the Governor thus explained his meaning:—

The Clergymen, European Catechists, and Native Teachers, employed by the Society in this Colony, are to be at liberty to enter any and all of the Schools established in the Villages of the Liberated Africans, during the hours allotted for instruction, and to catechize the person under instruction; examining them in all the branches of learning taught in the said Schools—also to advise and admonish the Teachers, as they may find it necessary; and to report to the Governor whatever they may consider as requiring correction or as admitting of improvement in the mode of conducting the said Schools, and to which they cannot apply a remedy without his interposition.

In pursuance of this plan the Schools were broken up, and the children distributed among their adult countrymen; but, when the people understood that the children were still to go to school they said, "We cannot feed and clothe these children if they are to go to school; we want them to work for us." So rapid and fatal was the effect of this system, that, on the Governor's visiting the Schools at Kiskey on the 20th of February, they presented the deplorable sight of only ten Girls, several of whom had neither book nor card—and not a single Boy!

The necessity of a further change of system being apparent, the following Notice was issued on the 14th of March:—

His Excellency the Governor having approved of the re-establishment of the Schools in the different Villages of Liberated Africans, the attention of the Managers is particularly desired as to the manner in which they are to be regulated.

The hours of attendance pointed out by the Instructions of His Excellency are to be strictly attended to.

The dress of the Children will be—for Girls, a petticoat, and a short jacket of blue and white check, with short sleeves, to be worn over the petticoat—for Boys, a pair of duck trousers, and a short shirt of striped check to wear over the trousers: these articles will be issued from the stores of the Liberated African Department, in each year, at Christmas and Midsummer, and the clothing due at Christmas last will be given to them immediately. The Managers are not expected to collect all the children, male and female, who were distributed among the inhabitants