

It fell on heedless eurs; no quickening spell
 Gave the Ambassador his Master's power
 To send the lunatic from out his cell
 Healed and restored within the self-same hour:
 No more *Emmanuel* by outspoken sign,
 The "God with us," lives in the life divine.

Light in the world! On silent things—
 Strong wall, barred postern, window-sill and
 floor—

Why only where the spirit plumes its wings
 Must darkness find a home forevermore?
 In vain went up the swelling hymn on high,
 No dew upon those preaching hearts distilled,
 Message of terror blanched no restless eye,
 Love and redemption not one spirit thrilled:
 Sweet harmonies may never discord fill,
 The chords were broken and the harps were still.

Oh God! begin a new creation here;
 Let there be light, and fill the weary void;
 Darkness is brooding o'er this world of fear,
 Restore the work thy hand has thus destroyed,
 Gather the fragments of each ruined mind,
 Renew Thy image in its perfect form.
 Heal the possessed, the demon nature bind,
 And with thy presence calm the raging storm:
 So shall they rise from out the tombs to Thee,
 And lose their darkness in Thy radiance.
 Halifax, July 9th, 1861. M. J. K.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Musquodoboit, April 1st, 1861.

War is a bad trade among nations, and it destroys peace and harmony among neighbors. The great Canning once said that nothing could have prevented the universal spread of Christianity but the divisions and contentions of its professors. Infidels have said that there is either no heaven at all, or that Christians are not on the road to it. Union is strength and beauty. It is like Mary's box; it filled the house in which they were sitting with the odor of the ointment. The tendency of the present times is union among Christians, and they are taking more delight in the fruits and flowers which grow in Mount Zion, than in the thorns and briars sometimes to be found on the skirts of the hill. Dissenters were wrong in regarding the Church of Scotland as a daughter of Samaria, and she was wrong in regarding the Dissenters in the light of the Jewish Pharisees, who tithed mint and cummin, but neglected judgment and mercy. Great defects and deficiencies prevailed in both parties, yet they held substantially the same truths, practised the same duties, and now both parties seem anxious to cast away their filthy garments, and rise in the might and majesty of spiritual Christianity. The best and wisest of our people, as well as the oldest and most pious of our ministers, have a sincere good will to the Church of Scotland. Nothing would give them more pleasure than to meet with them at the same altars. Children of the same father, renewed after the same image, and redeemed by the same grace, should worship in the same temple.

The Union of the Seceders and the Free Church was a step in the right direction and it may lead to a holy alliance among all the branches of John Knox's family in Nova Scotia. They sent a flag of truce to the clergy of the Established Church, and though they did not attend, they replied in a good spirit. It could scarcely be expected that they would dip their colors to this young fraternity without consulting the Church at Home. We learn that many leading ministers at home are favorable to the measure. I am glad to learn that the Glasgow Students are ministers of high water mark, and hope that by the divine blessing they may raise the tone of the pulpit, and gather souls to the Saviour. Our native preachers have the language, habits and manners of the people, fluency of expression, self-reliance and assurance, which are all elements of popularity. When to this is added a sound education which your students have acquired at the University in Glasgow, people will expect that they will be Jupiters in Divinity. It will require all their energy to make their discourses equal to their rising reputation. This cannot be done by genius or original powers of mind, but by unwearied application. All eyes are fixed on them. A minister has never more need of good discourses than at the beginning of his labors. A great character is almost as dangerous as a bad one, and may soon be lost. There is a kind of popularity which is acquired without merit, and lost without crime, which is of little value; but the good opinion of our fellow creatures when fairly acquired, is the noblest of earthly renown, and next to the approbation of our own minds. We will mingle our prayers with our wishes that those men may be a credit to their parents and their country, and by the divine blessing assist in repairing the dismantled towers of our venerable Zion. In reading Dr. McGregor's Memoir, we have a few of the privations, labors, and toils of ministers in a young country, and the hard struggles that the Highlanders made to obtain the services of the sanctuary. In the life of Dr. McGregor we have an impressive example of ministerial fidelity, which ought not to be lost on his successors. When the book treats on these topics it is valuable, but less interesting when it travels over the battle ground of the last generation in Picton and visits some controversies long forgotten and dead, and ought to have had no resurrection. I would like to see the book reviewed by an impartial and able writer.

JOHN SPROTT.

Manse, Musquodoboit, }
 April 1, 1861. }