

tions of a legendary fable. Else why this apathy? Why so alert to the rescue of your young from even the most trifling of calamities, and this dead indifference about their exposure to the most tremendous of all? O, the secret will be out! The cause bewrayeth itself! You have not faith; and, compassed about though ye be with Sabbath forms and seemly observations, and the semblance of a goodly and well looking profession, yet, if you labour not specifically and in practical earnest for the souls of your children, your doing short of this are, we fear, but the diseased and lame offerings of hypocrisy; your Christianity, we fear, is a delusion.—*Dr. Chalmers.*

From the Church Chronicle and Recorder.

THE LATE REV. J. FOSTER—A BEAUTIFUL LETTER OF HIS TO THE REV. JOSEPH HUGHES.

THE recent and lamented death of the Rev. John Foster, one of the most profound thinkers and original writers which our age has produced, must be regarded as a great public loss. His writings have been perused with no ordinary degree of interest, by intelligent and cultivated persons in this country as well as in England. They are marked with unusual depth of thought, beauty of imagery, refined taste, and vigour of diction. His Essays are the production of a mind of the highest order, and the frequent perusal of this volume is eminently adapted to discipline and invigorate the intellect. Every time we read it our conviction of its value is deepened, and we have been refreshed as by the return of an absent friend, whose character we esteem and from whose society we are conscious of having derived great intellectual and moral benefit.

Mr. Foster was a most amiable man in private life, and his moral and social worth was depicted in his letters to his friends, some of which the writer of this article has had the high privilege of perusing. We cannot but express a hope to see published a series of *Letters on Religion*, addressed to a young lady during her last illness. They evince a rare union of good sense, tender sensibility, and manly and elevated piety. The value of these letters we know how to appreciate from having perused them when at Bristol, England, a few years since; and we know that Mr. Foster was urgently solicited to publish them by the late Rev. Robert Hall and Mrs. Hannah More.

The following beautiful and consolatory letter was addressed by Mr. Foster to Rev. Joseph Hughes, the principal originator, and one of the secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, when languishing unto death. It breathes the same pure and exalted piety which pervades all the writings of this eminent divine.

E.

Stapleton, Sept. 13, 1833.

"The thought of my dear and ever-faithful friend, as now standing at the very verge of life has repeatedly carried me back in memory to the period of our youth, when, more than forty years since, we were brought into habitual society, and the cordial esteem and attachment which have survived undiminished through so long a lapse of time, and so much separation. Then we sometimes conjectured, but in vain, what might be the course appointed us to run; and how long; and which might first come to the termination. Now, the far greater part of that appointment has been unfolded and accomplished. To me a little stage farther remains under the darkness; you, my dear friend, have a clear sight almost to the concluding point. And while I feel the deepest pensiveness in beholding where you stand, with but a step between you and death, I cannot but emphatically congratulate you, I have often felt great complacency, in your behalf, in thinking of the course through which Providence has led you; complacency in regard to the great purposes of life, its improvements, its usefulness, and its discipline, and preparation for a better world. You are, I am sure, grateful to the Sovereign Disposer in the review of it. You have had the happiness of faithfully and zealously performing a great and good service, and can rejoice to think that your work is accomplished with an humble confidence that

the Master will say, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant,' while you will gratefully exult in ascribing all to his own sovereign mercy in Jesus Christ.

"But O, my dear friend, whither is it that you are going? Where is it that you will be in a few short weeks or days hence? I have affecting cause to think and to wonder concerning that unseen world; to desire, were it permitted mortals, one glimpse of that mysterious economy: to ask innumerable questions to which there is no answer. What is the manner of existence; of employment; of society; of remembrance; of anticipation; of all the surrounding revelations to our departed friends? How striking to think that she (Mrs. Foster) so long and so recently with me here, so beloved, but now so totally withdrawn and absent; that she experimentally knows all that I am in vain requiring!

"And a little while hence, you, my friend, will be an object of the same solemn meditations and wondering inquiries. It is most striking to consider, to realize the idea that you, to whom I am writing these lines, who continue yet among mortals, who are on this side of the awful and mysterious veil; that you will be in the midst of these grand realities, beholding the marvellous manifestation, amazed and transported at your new and happy condition of existence, while your friends are feeling the pensiveness of your absolute and final absence, and thinking how but just now, as it were, you were with them.

"But we must ourselves follow you to see what it is the emancipated spirits, who have obtained their triumph over death and all evil through the blood of the Lamb, find awaiting them in that nobler and happier realm of the great Master's empire; and I hope that your removal will be, to your other friends and to me, a strong additional excitement, under the influence of the Divine Spirit, to apply ourselves with more earnest zeal to the grand business of our high calling.

"It is a delightful thing to be assured, on the authority of revelation, of the perfect consciousness, the intensely awakened faculties, and all the capacities and causes of felicity of the faithful, in that mysterious, separate state; and on the same evidence, together with every other rational probability, to be confident of the reunion of those who have loved one another and their Lord on earth. How gloomy, beyond all expression, were a contrary anticipation!

"My friend feels, in this concluding day of his sojourn on earth, the infinite value of that blessed faith which confides alone in the great sacrifice for sin, the sole medium for pardon and reconciliation, and the ground of immortal hope. This has always been to you the very vitality of the Christian religion; and it is so, it is emphatically so, to me also.

"I trust you will be mercifully supported; the heart serene, and it may be, the bodily pain mitigated, during the remaining hours, and the still sinking weakness of the mortal frame; and I would wish for you also, and in compassion to the feelings of your attendant relatives, that you will humbly say, 'Thy will be done.'

"I know that I shall partake of your kindest wishes and remembrances in your prayers—the few more prayers you have to offer before you go. When I may follow you, and, I earnestly hope, rejoin you in a far better world, must be left to a decision that cannot at the most be very remote; for yesterday completed my sixty-third year. I deplore before God my not having lived more devotedly to the grand purpose, and do fervently desire the aid of the good Spirit, to make whatever of my life may remain much more effectually true to that purpose than all the preceding.

"But you, my friend, have accomplished your business—your Lord's business—on earth. Go, then, willingly and delighted, at his call.

"Here I conclude, with an affecting and solemn consciousness that I am speaking to you for the last time in this world. Adieu, then, my ever dear and faithful friend. Adieu—for awhile! May I meet you, ere long, where we shall never more say, Farewell!

"J. FOSTER."

Four Christian women have been baptized and entered into the Jewish Church, and within the last week have each been married to persons of that persuasion, in New York City.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

ENDOWMENT OF CATHOLIC ENERGY.

THE contest long looked forward to has early begun in both Houses of Parliament. The very first moment after the conclusion of the State trials has been seized upon by the leaders of the Whig party, to make a formal demand for the Establishment of Romanism. The struggle, now commenced, will doubtless be often renewed in various forms, at different periods of the session; and when Protestantism has such vigorous and determined assailants, and only half-hearted defenders, in the Legislature, it requires no prophetic gift to foretell what in due time must be the result, if the people of this Protestant land are not aroused to defeat the unholy proposal. We have long ago been cured of all partisan attachment to one class of mere politicians more than another. We trust that religious men, of every denomination, who have hitherto been inclined to put confidence in the Liberals as a party, will now see the true character of their idol. Lord John Russell comes forward in the name of his party to propose to Parliament, that that religion, which his great ancestor Lord William denounced on the scaffold as an "idolatrous and bloody religion," should be adopted into the religious Establishment of the empire; that it should in every respect, be put on an equality with the Protestant Established Church; and that its bishops should raise their mitred fronts in the House of Lords. The same proposal is simultaneously made in the Upper House, by Lord Normanby. Both these noble Lords declare that nothing short of this will ever suffice for securing tranquility to Ireland. To make their scheme the more palatable, a sop is thrown to the Irish Presbyterians, to whom they propose to give more power and emolument, by raising them, at the same time, to the dignity of an Established Church. They little know the men they have to deal with, if they suppose that the staunch Presbyterians of Ulster can be seduced from their allegiance to the Protestant faith, by any such base compromise. Our brethren, we doubt not, will soon speak out in such a way as to undeceive them.

UNITARIAN USURPATIONS.

THE Irish Lord Chancellor gave judgment on Saturday, in the important case of "The Attorney-General v. Hutton." It was a bill filed by the Attorney-General, at the relation of the Commissioners of Charitable Bequests, against Mr. Hutton and others, being the trustees of certain funds now held by the Unitarian congregations of Dublin, and which it was alleged had been originally bequeathed for strictly Trinitarian purposes, and not Unitarian, as alleged by the defendants. The arguments and proofs in this case, which was before the Court for seven days, having been concluded, and Mr. Brooke having been heard in reply, the Lord Chancellor went through the facts of the case, and, after a lucid review, stated that though he would not then give final judgment, he had little doubt but his final decision would accord with his present view of the case—namely, that the funds had been originally bequeathed to a congregation of Trinitarian Presbyterians; and that the congregation now worshipping in Eustace-street, being confessedly Unitarian, they were exercising the trust in a manner not intended by the original donors, and that, therefore, the Attorney-General must have a decree, as prayed. By this decree the Unitarians lose the meeting houses and schools in Eustace-street, in Dublin, and the interest on the grant which, it is understood, amounts to £1,200 a year.

MAR YOHANNA.—Extract from a letter written by Mar Yohanna to a friend in Boston:—"If you ask about this country, the Mohammedans oppress us very much. In the mountains there is much confusion among the Nestorians and Kurdish. We pray always that God may help them. O my dear friend, your dwelling-places is a Christian land; our land not so good for Christians to live in. Your land is a Bible land and Churches land. In your country there are many teachers, but our country sword; land full of blood. O my dear friend, pray about us; probably God deliver us from the power of Mohammedans. Yours truly,

"FRIEND MAR YOHANNA."