

ciency, which may be supposed to exist in worldly religious establishments, or in the mistakes and errors of ministers themselves. These subjects, however, are either too delicate, or in their relations too complicated, to be here touched upon. They are left to the reader's meditations. Meanwhile it becomes all of us, whether ministers or private Christians, to be deeply humbled before God. That the influences of the blessed spirit are greatly restrained, is sufficiently evident. Shall we not seriously search out the cause? Let no one cause be thought sufficient to account for so great a calamity. J. D. J.

INTELLIGENCE.

ALEXANDER CARSON, A. M.

(AUTHOR OF THE CELEBRATED WORK ON BAPTISM.)

From this place we proceeded through county Antrim to Tubbermore, wishing to have an opportunity of conversing with Mr. Carson, who for many years has been labouring in that village, and whose writings, especially on baptism, have made him widely known. It was gratifying to learn, wherever we went, that he is held in very high esteem by all parties who know him; a fact which involves no ordinary testimony to his excellence, as there is perhaps no country in which religious prejudices run higher than they do in Ireland—in the Protestant north as well as the Catholic south. You will not expect that I should describe Mr. C. except in the general terms, that whatever had been my ideas of his deep piety, his good sense, and extensive information, these were greatly exceeded by what we found him to be. He is not enough known to our body. We were delighted with his urbanity, communicativeness, and perfect freedom from every thing like assumption; with the strength of a giant, he is meek, bland, docile as a child. We obtained, before reaching his place, very interesting information as to his congregation, church, &c. It was described as consisting of from 700 to 1000 persons, or very nearly that number, coming from all parts of the vicinity. His church, open in its communion, has somewhere about three hundred members in it, almost all of whom, indeed, are very poor, but they seem, from the representation made to us, rich in knowledge, and faith, and spiritual excellence. We found the good man in a cottage situated near a bog, on a gently rising ground, and

in the midst of fields cultivated, and not scantily planted with trees, by his own hand. He has contrived here to bring up a large family, consisting now I believe of ten children, all of whom know and love the Saviour. Most of them occupy respectable stations in society. A friend described to us the services of public worship in Mr Carson's congregation. I believe you know that in the north of Ireland the Baptists mostly hold with the practice of mutual exhortation; Mr. C's people do, though it is by no means constant. The people assemble from all parts of the neighbourhood on Lord's day morning. I forget whether at eleven or twelve o'clock; such as approve the practice, at the opening of the worship, salute each other with the kiss of charity "in the name of the Lord," a hymn or psalm from the Scotch version is then sung, Mr. Carson prays, and afterwards portions from the scripture are read, one of which, or sometimes both, becomes the subject of an expository lecture, of about an hour and a half in length. The Lord's supper is then administered, and if brethren exhort, this immediately follows the hymn with which the part of the service concludes; if not, and this is most common, Mr. C. concludes the first part of the service. An interval then occurs of a few minutes; the people cannot go home, they are too far away; they wait therefore, refreshing themselves somewhat, till again Mr. C. commences a service like ours in England, in which he commonly preaches: both the expository lecture and the sermon, my informant told me, being distinguished by sound scriptural acquaintance with the truths of religion, by deep piety, and eminent adaptation to feed the listening multitudes with knowledge and understanding. This I could easily believe, from a lecture which it was our good fortune to hear from Mr. Carson on the following Lord's day. It was distinguished by child-like simplicity and transparent piety. How shall I describe his place of worship? In form it resembles the letter T, the pulpit in the back wall being at the point of junction; no plaster adorns its walls, no ceiling indicates the regard of the worshippers for splendour; at the ends of the horizontal line are galleries, the perpendicular of the T has been recently added as enlargement. The people, many of them, come shoeless to meeting, of what use would be flooring? All is simple as you can conceive. There are marks of poverty which I wish the wealth of some of our English Christians would enable Mr. C. to remove. One of Mr. C.'s hearers, employed by the Society as a reader, is evidently a man of superior understanding, a fair specimen, I learned, of the men members of his church.—*Rev. S. Green, in the Irish Chronicle.*