

May every Christian parent, and every head of a family, imitate the conduct of David, who "shewed forth the loving-kindness of the Lord every morning, and declared His faithfulness every night,"—then may every parent calmly resign his spirit into the hands of God, assured that he who has been his God, will be the God of his succeeding race.

February, 1842.

L. Z.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.]

### THE STORM.

A DIALOGUE BETWEEN A FATHER AND HIS CHILD.

"FATHER, is there but one God?"

"But one, my child."

"Yes, father, I'm sure of it, because you tell me so. But, oh! do you remember that dreadful night, when the wind howled so, and the great apple-tree was blown down, and the thunder and lightning frightened me—and you and all the servant-men went down to the shore, because you heard guns. And after a long, a very long time, you came back again, and I heard your voice, and ran to the kitchen to meet you; and you looked very pale, and were kneeling beside a poor young lady, laid upon a board, with her hair hanging all about her; she was cold and wet, and her clothes were torn, and had blood upon them—and she would not breathe, all you could do—and you said she was dead; and the beautiful vessel we had seen in the evening, you said, had been dashed to pieces on the rocks, and that the sailors had fired guns to tell you of their danger, but no one could go to them, and they were all lost. Father—you said the hand of God directed the storm. Oh! what a terrible God!"

"Yes, my child, it was a fearful thing to see that huge vessel, but a few hours before the pride of man's workmanship, to see her dismantled, and powerless on the rocks, far from the reach of human aid, and threatened every instant with destruction, as the enormous waves broke over her. The bright flashes of lightning in the pitchy darkness of the night showed us all this, my child, and we could even see the poor sufferers clinging in numbers to the masts and rigging for safety; but ere we left the shore, a sea more powerful than the rest had shattered her to pieces, and the succeeding waves, as they came rolling on, showed at our feet all that remained of the beautiful fabric, and its ill-fated crew. But do you still look upon God, my child, as a terrible God—and why do you ask me is there but one God?"

"Because, dear father, the next time you talked of him, he seemed so different to the God who destroyed the beautiful vessel, and the hundreds of people in her—that I thought there must be more than one God. It was soon after dear mama had gone to heaven. You were sitting at the drawing-room window, in the old arm-chair; mama's work-table was beside you, with her books upon it. You had forgotten to order candles, but it was not very dark, for the moon was shining, and I could see that you were thinking of something in the sky. I sat on your knee a long time, dear father, while you told me of God. You pointed to the moon, and the beautiful stars, and told me that I should love their Maker—that God had made them, and continually directed their movements—that the little trembling stars were great worlds—much, oh much larger than ours, and that their number could not be reckoned. You told me, that while we were sleeping, God was watching these beautiful stars—and that he had not only made the great sun to light us by day, and the moon and the stars by night, but that he had done much more for us—indeed, that you would never be able to tell me how great or how good he was—for that everything we had was given us by him. Father, if this is the same God, how terrible he is when he is angry!"

"Yes, my child, the God who directed that storm, is the same God who is so kind, so bountiful to us. At times he sees it necessary to afflict us, but he always does so in mercy, and for some wise end, which we may not perhaps understand. And this great God, who has made the world, the sun, and the moon, and the stars—who is so very wonderful, and, when he orders the thunder and lightning, so very terrible."

"Is he in heaven?"

"He is, my child."

"Yet, dear father, when I came to you the other morning, and asked you what you were doing, you said you were praying to God, and that God was beside you, and listening while you prayed. Is this the God that inhabits heaven—how can he be in heaven, and hear you praying in your closet?"

"My child, God is in heaven, and every where, at the same time. He sees all you do, hears all you say, and knows all you think. There is but one God, and we are his creatures. He can regulate the innumerable worlds that roll in their sphere—guide the sun in its path—bid the world revolve in its appointed time—still the raging sea—or summon the tempest to appear—direct the fields to yield their increase, and the little flower to blossom. He can keep you from danger by night and by day, and listen to your prayers, and do all and much more than this at the same moment—for he is every where present, knows every thing, and can do every thing. Yes, my child—the same God who inhabits heaven, filling it with glory by his presence—the same God who is there surrounded by myriads of angels and blessed spirits—that God, who made all things by his word, and continually upholds them—that God, who created us, and in whom we live, and move, and have our being—that God, who gives to the sun his glory, to the moon and the stars their beauty—that God, who is so terrible when he is angry—before whom all powers must bow, and kings be subject,—that God condescends to attend to the wants of his people, and to listen to their prayers, to the prayer even of a little child. 'Tis he who can keep you, my child, from every danger—'tis he who can give you every thing that is good for you—'tis he who can make you virtuous and happy, and beloved by all;—and all this he will do, if you pray to him for it. And that you may know how to pray, he has above all given you his *Holy Bible*. This is his best gift, and of more value than all else we possess."

"Dear father, I will read the Bible, that I may know more of this God, who is so very wonderful, and so very good."

"Do, my child."

January, 1842.

J. D. M'D.

### THOUGHTS ON PHRENOLOGY.

NO. V.

It may be doubted whether Phrenology will ever become so practical, and generally useful, as some of its advocates endeavour to make it. Whether, for instance, individual character can be described correctly by an examination of the head: for, first,—It requires a thorough knowledge of the subject, which few have an opportunity of acquiring. 2d. It is necessary to ascertain whether the individual be converted or unconverted: as, in one case, the manifestations of mind will be very different from what they will be in the other. 3d. The temperament must also be known, as on this depends the degree of activity: the same organisation connected with a phlegmatic, will differ considerably when connected with a nervous, temperament. 4. The age of the individual must be taken into account, the strength of the manifestations differing very essentially in youth, manhood, and old age. 5th. Whether the organs be healthy or unhealthy. 6th. The manner in which he has been trained, as great mental and moral barrenness may exist with a finely developed head, unless the mind has, through its organs, received a proper education.

These remarks are not made with the design of depreciating the value of the science, but to caution those who may otherwise be too hasty in judging from external appearances. The advantages of the science are sufficiently obvious, without insisting on the truth of every popular notion respecting it. Some of these advantages may be summed up in a few words, and are as follow:—

Phrenology makes us better acquainted with ourselves and with mankind.

It is of essential use in the training of children, and in this light recommends itself to the study of parents and teachers.

It accounts for the foibles and weaknesses of our fellow-men—shows how real excellence may exist

with traits of character by no means amiable—and, consequently, is calculated to make men more charitable in forming their estimate of human character.

Its use is felt and acknowledged by the preacher who wishes to touch some of the most powerful springs of human action; hence, says the learned D. Welsh, D.D., Professor of Church History in the University of Edinburgh:—

"I have found the greatest benefit from the science as a Minister of the Gospel. I have been led to study the evidences of Christianity anew in connexion with Phrenology, and I feel my confidence in the truth of our holy religion increased by this new examination. I have examined the doctrines of our Church also, one by one, in connexion with Phrenology, and have seen the most wonderful harmony subsisting between them. And in dealing with my people in the ordinary duties of my calling, the practical benefit I have derived from Phrenology is inestimable."

February, 1842.

ENCEPHALO.

### SUMMARY OF NEWS.

#### LATER FROM ENGLAND.

##### ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP BRITANNIA.

The most important news received by the Britannia is the signing of a treaty of the five powers, England, France, Austria, Russia and Prussia, for the suppression of the slave trade, by which they allow the right of search; and any ships of either nation employed in the slave trade are to be treated as pirates.

The trade of Great Britain is, certainly in a worse state than when we received our last accounts.

The Queen Dowager's health continues to mend, and a satisfactory bulletin is consequently expected to be issued. Her Majesty has now for some time derived considerable benefit from passing the night in an undisturbed state, and from enjoying more regular sleep then during a long period after the commencement of her indisposition.

The baptism of the Prince of Wales is expected to take place at the end of the next month, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor.

Parliament has again been prorogued from the 21st of December to the 3d of February, then to meet for the despatch of business. Her Majesty has already announced her intention to open the ensuing session of parliament in person, and it is generally expected that our beloved Sovereign will be accompanied on that important and interesting occasion by all the royal and distinguished foreigners invited to witness the christening of the Prince of Wales.

By an order in council, dated December 10, the name of the Prince of Wales is to be inserted immediately after that of Prince Albert, in all the prayers, Almanacs, and collects for the royal family.

The infant heir to the British throne has been created Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester.

The contemplated emigration meeting in London has been suspended, the requisitionists having full reliance on the government, which is considering the subject.

The chartists in the neighbourhood of Birmingham have lately been very active.

The horrible mania for firing property appears to be spreading throughout the country. Several acts of incendiarism have lately been perpetrated in Berkshire and Nottinghamshire.

LORD ASHBURTON'S MISSION.—It gives us much pleasure to announce that the Right Hon. Lord Ashburton, at the request of her Majesty's government, is about to proceed to the United States on a special mission, with the object of settling all existing difficulties between that country and our own. His Lordship, who will sail in a few weeks, had been asked to undertake this service, and had consented to do so, before the President's Message had been received, so that the mission in question, whatever be its character or results, has been had recourse to, wholly irrespective of anything contained or omitted in that document. The step itself, we think a wise one, inasmuch as the introduction of new elements of irritation contingent upon further delay, might effectually render an amicable adjustment unattainable, and involve both countries in all the horrors of war.—*Times*.

ENGLAND AND AMERICA.—We have reason to believe that a very serious misunderstanding now exists between the British Government and the United States, arising on the one hand from the unwillingness of the American President to apologise for the detention of a British subject, (Mr. Leach) on an unfounded charge, and on the other, from the alleged fact that the vessels engaged in the slave trade are notoriously fitted out in American ports. Lord Aberdeen, as we learn, has written repeated and decided notes on both these subjects without as yet receiving satisfactory answers; and, considering the fresh obligations imposed on this country by the new anti-slave treaty, it is much to be feared that something unpleasant may occur between both governments. Our information on this subject is derived from a most authentic source.