

In this psalm, of proud unbelievers rejecting the government of God, as an intolerable restraint, and presumptuously aiming at its overthrow, as though he himself were a feeble usurper.

"4. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in derision."

How dreadful the condition of those, whatever be their earthly state, who are the objects of Jehovah's contempt and scorn!

"5. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure."

The establishment of God's Kingdom of Grace in our world, involves in it the destruction of obstinate rebels. Their doom is thus pronounced in the very promulgation of His purposes of mercy, and soon shall it find its accomplishment.

"6. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion."

How favoured a spot was Zion, the seat of a dominion, which imaged that which is now exercised over believers on earth, and shall be exercised over the redeemed in glory! And to this spiritual and heavenly dominion, Jehovah has exalted His own Son, notwithstanding the combined opposition of earth and hell.

"7. I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, 'Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.'"

The only begotten Son of God alone knows the Father, and is able to reveal His unfathomable counsels. And he, here, through the spirit of prophecy, announced, that the Father had confessed him to be his Son, and had fixed a period in time in which His Sonship should be manifested to the universe.

"8. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

How great the complacency of the Father in the Son! How ready is the Father to bestow on the Son, as the Redeemer of the Church, all that he can desire. Nations, even all nations to become his willing subjects, are granted to him for the asking—the extremities of the earth are to become the bounds of His Kingdom!

"9. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

How terrible shall Messiah's Reign prove to all His obstinate enemies, when the dictates of perfect justice shall be carried into execution by the arm of Omnipotence!

"10. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth."

The rulers and judges of earth may well bear in mind continually, that they are subject to a government, and amenable to a tribunal infinitely more august and awful than their own.

"11. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling."

They will then, in the best sense, be ministers for good, to those over whom they are placed, when they recognise the Supreme Lordship of Messiah, and aim in all their acts at serving and honoring him. And fear tempered with the joy of hope, is the state of mind proper for them and all his other servants to cultivate.

"12. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little.—Blessed are they that put their trust in him."

Subjection to the Son of God is at once a duty and a privilege, the highest which fallen man can attain to. And the neglect of it involves in it infinite guilt, and must issue in eternal woe. Let no despisers of Christ count on being long toler-

ated in their sinful courses, soon\* shall his whose grace is now misunderstood and abused by so many, be revealed with the awful majesty of the Judge.

#### LETTER FROM THE REV DR WILLIS

We have much pleasure in giving a place to the following letter, recording as it does the goodness of God, in mercifully preserving, and giving opportunities of usefulness to Dr and Mrs Willis.

LONDON, Aug 2, 1850

DEAR SIR,—

Remembering that to-morrow is American mail-day, I embrace it as the earliest opportunity, since our arrival, to inform you that Mrs Willis and myself reached our native shores a few days ago, in safety and in good health. We feel that we have the greater reason to acknowledge the kind preserving hand of our Heavenly Father that, while we have traversed so much space of sea and land unharmed, casualties even beyond the usual extent, in number and in amount of fatal results, have befallen others, whose journeyings commenced nearly at the same time with our own. We had scarcely left the lines between Canada and the United States, when we were met by the intelligence of the loss of the *Griffith*, on Lake Erie—which Lake we sailed over only two days after the sad occurrence, and saw, from the deck of our steamer, the remains of the burnt vessel, telling by its appearance how completely the fiery element had fulfilled its mission. And now on this side of the Atlantic, among the earliest of our news, was the melancholy fate of the Steamer *Orion*, on the Scottish coast—the more affecting to us, as we knew several of the names of the sufferers, and especially the highly respectable individuals from Montreal, who shared in the sad catastrophe. Great blame is attached to those concerned in the conducting of the steamer on that trip, as no excuse could be alleged from the state of the weather, for so grievous a nautical blunder. It will be no solace to the surviving parties interested in so great a calamity, even to have the deserved punishment inflicted on the guilty, but it is greatly to be desired, that the lessons taught by such disastrous occurrences themselves, were more permanent in their influence than they are generally found to be—the recklessness of individuals, after a little interval, too often driving them on similar ventures of their own and others' lives, as if the precedents had never been recorded.

We sailed from New York on the 1st July, for Havre, by the ship *Baltimore*, and reached that port on the morning of the 28th, being Sabbath. We were glad to find that the bustle of landing was over much more speedily than we feared, and we availed ourselves of the opportunity of attending public worship at the later diet, which we experienced to be highly edifying. We found the French Reformed Church shut when we approached, it not being the hour of service there; but we heard a good sermon in the church sustained in Havre, I believe by the American Seaman's Friend's Society—though the congregation seemed to consist mostly of citizens. We were pleased by the devout demeanour of the congregation, though not numerous, and least so, as often happens, at the evening diet of worship. I liked to hear them join so generally in the praise,—a thing which it vexes me to perceive wanting in so many American churches, and too often partially wanting in Canadian ones. I should mention that the whole services were in English. This reminds me of the partly English and partly French religious service which I gave, very imperfectly indeed, on board the ship, each Sabbath of our voyage. The captain, to his honor I relate, at once met my proposal cordially. The passengers, a limited number, were of four nations, some

\*The middle clause of this verse should be rendered, "For a little," or soon "His wrath shall be kindled."

of them French and Germans, as the others of us were English and American. The foreigners, even from Germany, understood the French language better than the English, so I adapted myself to the case as I found, by reading the chapter and orations as well from the French as from the English Bible, and also interchanging French with English prayers. The little auditory, a few sailors and deck as well as cabin passengers, attended respectfully, and I was glad to hear the French admiring more courteously it may be, than according to the strict share of merit, that the Doctor (Monsieur le Docteur) pronounced *très bien*, very well. I felt interested in two young Frenchmen, whom I found intelligent, but one of them more deeply read in Voltaire and our English History, than I fear has been to his profit. I sought of the Lord opportunities of impressing his mind in favour of the Christian religion, and I was well assisted in this work by Mrs Willis, to whose advice they both listened courteously, and from whom they accepted, with gratitude, cards with select scripture passages and references. The sailors also accepted and read the Tracts given by her. From myself, the young Frenchman as to whom I felt most anxious, asked, in parting with me, an introduction to some clergyman, of the Protestant denomination. Gladder to meet the request than he to proffer it, I wrote a note to the Rev. Frederick Monod, of Paris, commending him to his attention, and I trust the latter end of this episode may be better still than the beginning. I had proof during all the voyage, of what I have long believed, that if we wish to gain the erring, or commend our faith to those who differ from us, we must rather patiently and candidly reason with them, than hastily judge and denounce. A Roman Catholic gentleman, a German, with whom, from his very limited knowledge of the English, and my own rather imperfect knowledge of French, I got on best in Latin, (for he was a scholar, and had, I believe, been employed before the late troubles in Europe, on some public embassies)—he, I say, conversed with me often on Protestant questions frankly—attended the service on Sabbath, and joined in the thanksgiving service, which, in parting for the night at the Hotel, I proposed as becoming our state as travellers, and our retrospect of the Lord's mercies.

We left Havre on Monday night, and reached London, by way of Southampton, on Tuesday.—We are resting for a few days with our friends here, and propose (God willing,) to go to Scotland next week. I may write again from thence.—With best wishes and prayers for you and yours, and all our Toronto and Canada friends,

I remain, yours truly,

M. WILLIS.

JOHN BURNS, Esq.

#### THE REV. W. C. BURNS.

A beautifully lithographed copy of the following interesting letter to his parents, has been sent us by a friend. It cannot fail to gratify our readers, that one whose departure from Canada we still deplore, is, by the good hand of God, permitted to prosecute his Master's work, in another part of the vineyard:—

CANTON, March 23, 1850.

MY DEAR PARENTS—

Although I have often enough of time and leisure, and lately have had more than I could have wished, either for my own benefit or for the advancement of the work which has brought me to these distant and heathen shores, yet it sometimes happens, that when I am about to write, I am more engaged than usual. It is so to day, and that from a new kind of employment, viz: that of negotiating with some natives for premises in which to live and prosecute the missionary work. The matter is not arranged, but I have more hope of a favourable issue than I had some days ago. On the last day of February, Dr.