

## THE WREATH.

For the Wesleyan.

## THE HEALING OF THE WATERS.

*"Keep thine heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of Life."—Scripture.*

When Israel stood,  
Upon the brink of Marah's flood,  
And sought relief  
From burning thirst, a piercing wall of grief,  
Rose from their ranks—the bitter tide,  
Refreshment to their weariness denied.

But Moses now  
Casts in the spring the healing bough;  
The spring is healed,  
A mystic source of purity revealed;  
Sweet, pure, and bright the waters flow,  
And onwards Israel's bands rejoicing go.

The human mind,  
For God's shade at first designed,  
Is stained with sin,  
Its fount embittered, all its streams unclean;  
A source unsanctified whence springs,  
Unholy thoughts and vain imaginings.

But God has found  
A cure for sin's most deadly wound,  
From David's root,  
A sacred branch hath sprung; whose healing fruit,  
Our hearts shall change: our wills subdue;  
And with the spirit's health, our souls renew.

Oh! God of Power,  
My sin-sick heart to health restore;  
Teach me thy will,  
That I with joy each duty may fulfil;—  
Walking in all thy pleasant ways,  
And travelling Zion-wards with songs of praise.

Thy grace impart,  
With diligence to keep my heart,  
Whose springs are life,  
At every avenue with death or life;  
And lest some base desire should issue thence,  
Be thou continually my light and my defence.

## GENERAL RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

## STATE OF PROTESTANTISM IN EUROPE.

(Continued from page 19.)

In Holland, the King is truly the head of the Protestant Church and faith of the country. Sometimes at six o'clock in the morning his Majesty is attending public service—but always, every morning of his life, he attends, and generally between the hours of eight and nine. In no country are the mass of the people so religious. The churches are crowded. Even foreigners when they get to Holland appear to become influenced by the general spirit of pure Christianity which exists there, for there are two large English congregations at Rotterdam, and two at that most wicked city Amsterdam. There is, however, no English Protestant church at the Hague, although from twenty to thirty English families reside there. This is much to be deplored, and it is hoped the English Government will attend without delay to this matter.

In Holland, the prevailing religion is the Reformed Dutch Church, having 1,200 ministers. Then there are the remonstrants, or Arminians, who are rich and powerful, but few; then the Baptists, and then the Walloons, having about forty or fifty chapels. There are two large French churches at the Hague, where the Gospel is preached faithfully by the Rev. Mr. Secretan, whose praise is in all Christian churches in Europe. The Baptists are not numerous. The bulk of the people belong to the Dutch Reformed Church; but the clergy are, unfortunately, generally too cold, formal, and lifeless in their service and preaching. They are moral men, and few examples are to be found of any of immoral life; but

they are too much mere formalists. A large portion of these clergymen may be called "Rationalists." This is not surprising. It is owing a great deal to the past political state of Holland. The long-continued wars kept Holland in a state of suspense and anxiety, and this was not favourable to the progress of vital religion. Then came the French and infidelity with them from 1792 to 1814. Then the young men in order to escape the conscription, took to the work of the ministry—and multitudes entered the church against whose morality and good conduct nothing could be urged, but who were by no means prepared for the sacred work which they thus undertook. These young men are now middle-aged or old clergymen. They have remained the same. They preach good morality, and sometimes even more than this; but it appeared impossible but that some revival should occur.

With respect to this revival, of which Mr. Baird spoke, of course different opinions are entertained. The Dutch Government is much opposed to the work, because in the first place, the clergy are not at the head of it. But this should excite no surprise. It is a reformation, or a revival, among the laity, to push on the clergy to more of zeal and energy in their pastoral and pulpit labours. By the laws of Holland, only nineteen persons can meet together without the consent of the Government. These new revivalists meet together for prayer and reading the Scriptures, and endeavour as much as possible to prevent more than nineteen from being present at any one meeting. But sometimes they cannot prevent this, and then if there are twenty and upwards, they are prosecuted, fined, and imprisoned. Amsterdam is the headquarters of this work, and its progress is astonishing since those who are devoted to it have been the objects of the prosecution. Mr. Baird is fully convinced that the matter has been placed in a wrong light before the King of Holland, or he is satisfied that so good a King, so excellent a man, and so sincere a Christian, would never suffer the prosecutions and persecutions which are now going on in that country. The revivalists declare that their profession of faith is in perfect accordance with the original profession of faith of the reformed Dutch Church; and certainly some of the tribunals have decided in their favour, whilst others have pronounced against them. The fines imposed upon them in some districts are enormous. From ten to 15,000 florins of fines have been levied in some districts on some persons for opening their houses to prayer and reading the scriptures; and from 50 to 100 men have been put into prison. One of the late ministers of the King of Holland has attacked these proceedings in a pamphlet addressed to his Majesty and his Government; and it is to be hoped that ere long it will produce a good effect. The Universities of Holland are excellent, and some of the professors are sincere Protestant Christians. But unfortunately this cannot be said of the majority. Of the hundreds of students educated in them, many are to be found who are sincerely pious, and their number is daily increasing. On the whole, the pure spirit of the Reformation is reviving in Holland, and when the first troubles incidental to the introduction of a new class of religious feelings shall have subsided, by the cessation of resistance on the part of the government to religious opinions have no political bearing, much good will result from what is now going on. I have thus supplied the statement of Mr. Baird on this subject, because it is free from exaggeration; because he is a sincere friend to the Dutch Reformed Church; and because no subject of His Majesty King William in all Holland can be a more sincere admirer of his character than this American Republican. At the same time, I am bound to say, that the Dutch Government views the matter in a very different light, and that it does not at present seem disposed to come to terms with the Revivalists. I hope sincerely that this state of things will not long exist; for, after the

loss of a crown which the case of Berlin should now show the Christian Church

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