

when Mr. Salter Givins was admitted to the Holy Order of Deacons. Mr. Givins has been licenced to the cure of souls among the Mohawks in the Bay of Quinte—the Rev. Gentleman will also attend occasionally to congregations at the village of Napanee and other parts of the Township of Richmond, adjacent to the Indian Reserve.

His Lordship the Bishop left Kingston for New-York, on the morning of the 14th., accompanied by the Rev. A. N. Bethune of Cobourg. It is His Lordship's intention to sail on the 24th instant in the Packet Ship Birmingham.

The Rev. R. D. Cartwright has accepted the office of Assistant Minister of St. George's Church, Kingston, U. C. vacant by the resignation of the Rev. T. Hancock.

FROM THE GOSPEL MESSENGER.

ANECDOTE OF THE COMPANION TO THE ALTAR.

This is the title of one of the many admirable works published by the late lamented Bishop Hobart. It is a book which ought to be in the hands, I will not say of simply every *Episcopalian*, but of every truly *pious Christian*, and indeed of every *individual*, who wishes to see the fundamental doctrines of the cross clearly stated, and intelligibly illustrated, and practically applied, or who desires *devotional exercises*, calculated to excite, cherish and increase in his own heart, pure religious sentiment and feelings. Of all the new compositions put forth to assist us in attaining a knowledge of evangelical truth, and to impress it upon the soul, this "companion to the altar" will be ranked among the first.—The following anecdote may not be altogether uninteresting to the reading public.

A minister belonging to a *non* Episcopal denomination, once enjoying the hospitality of some of his acquaintances, on the way to his room to retire for the night, picked up a book which was lying on the stand near the parlour door, and on looking at it observed, "Ah, there is a work which has done much mischief, it has been instrumental in deceiving many persons and leading them to perdition." The lady of the house took it up, after he had disappeared, and perceiving what it was, thought it worth her while to peruse it in order to discover and guard against its errors. She herself had always been in the habit of attending to the same church to which her guest belonged. Her mind, however, was an unsophisticated one. The spirit of piety which pervaded the anathematized book charmed her. Its instructions found their way to her understanding. The language in which all was expressed was to her, the language of one who had been truly awakened to a sense of his "exceeding sinfulness" and had known the "power of godliness." To her it seemed the breathing of a soul humbled to the dust in view of natural depravity and actual guilt, and yet clinging with faith to the "bleeding hope" revealed in the Gospel, and relying upon the all-sufficiency of unmerited grace, while he resolved henceforth to "run the way of God's commandments."

From perusing this work, she proceeded to a more general and thorough examination of the principles of that Church whose chief champion, it appeared to her, had such a deep experimental knowledge of the plan of salvation, through "him crucified;" and it was not many years before she and her husband knelt together, before that, now as I departed man of God, to receive from him the holy rite of confirmation. Often since have those two estimable persons been indeed *Companions at the altar* of the Church, thus over the memorials of their Saviour's precious death adoring the mercy which has called them out of darkness into marvellous light, and from the bondage of corruption translated them into the glorious liberty of the children of God. And God Almighty grant that, when they shall cease being permitted to adorn, as they now most unquestionably do, the Church militant, they may meet him, some of whose last services in the Church on earth they were allowed to enjoy, in that blessed world where the righteous shall themselves be kings and priests unto God, and where the great Bishop of souls will lead them to the very throne of life, the fountain of eternal love.

ELTHONE.

BURNING OF THE WESTERN PRAIRIES.

We have no means of determining at what period the fires began to sweep over these plains, because we know not when they began to be inhabited. It is quite possible that they might have been occasionally fired by lightning, previous to the introduction of that element by human agency. At all events it is very evident that as soon as fire began to be used in this country by its inhabitants, the annual burning of the prairie must have commenced. One of the peculiarities of this climate is the dryness of its summers and autumns. A drought often commences in August, which, with the exception of a few hours towards the close of that month, continues throughout the fall season. The immense mass of vegetation with which this fertile soil loads itself during the summer, is suddenly withered, and the whole surface of the earth is covered with combustible materials. This is especially true of the prairies, where the grass grows to the height of from six to ten feet, and being entirely exposed to the sun and wind, dries with great rapidity. A single spark of fire flying any where upon the plains, at such a time, would instantly kindle a flame, which would spread on every side, and continue its destructive course as long as it should find fuel. Travellers have described these fires as sweeping with a rapidity which renders it hazardous to fly before them. Such is not the case, or is true only of a few rare instances. The thick sward of the prairie presents a considerable mass of fuel, and offers a barrier to the progress of the flames which is not easily surmounted. The fire advances slowly, and with power. The heat is intense. The flames often extend across a wide prairie, and advance in a long line. No sight can be more sublime than to behold in the night, a stream of several miles in breadth, advancing across these wide plains, leaving behind it a black cloud of smoke, and throwing before it a livid glare which lights up the whole landscape with the brilliancy of noon-day. A roaring and a crackling sound is heard like the rushing of a hurricane. The flame, which, in general, rises to the height of about twenty feet, is seen sinking, and darting upwards in spires, precisely as the waves dash against each other, and as the spray flies up into the air, and the whole appearance is often that of a boiling and flaming sea violently agitated. The progress of the fire is slow, and the heat so great that every combustible object in its course is consumed. Wo to the farmer whose ripe corn field extends into the prairie, and who suffers the tall grass to grow in contact with his fences! The whole labor of the year is swept away in a few hours. But such accidents are comparatively unrequent, as the preventive is simple, and easily applied.—*Illinois Magazine.*

It appears that the man of miracle, the modern Thaumatergos, Prince Hohenlohe, has also turned Prophet, and predicted that Paris, Lyons, Geneva, and four other cities, were to be destroyed, like Sodom and Gomorrah, by showers of flaming sulphur, on or before the 2d of February past; after which they are to be restored to prosperity and happiness under the paternal sway of Charles X. The next arrivals from Europe will perhaps decide the prophecy.

Argue not with a man whom thou knowest to be of an obstinate humor; for when he is once contradicted, his mind is barr'd up against all light and information: arguments though never so well grounded, do but provoke him, and make him even afraid to be convinced of the truth.

CHILDRENS' DEPARTMENT.

ABRAHAM OFFERING UP HIS SON ISAAC.

(Concluded from last week.)

Isaac had been taught, by his good father, to sacrifice to God, as was the custom of those days, and he began to wonder where the sacrifice was, and very innocently said, "My father; behold the fire