

Canadian Wesleyan.

"WHEREFORE ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN SHOULD DO UNTO YOU, DO YE EVEN SO UNTO THEM"

VOLUME II.

HAMILTON, GORE DISTRICT, U. C. NOVEMBER 8, 1832.

NUMBER 5.

POETRY.

"I AM THE WAY."

I am the way, thou anguish'd soul,
Thou wretch; on nature's ocean dark;
See'st thou the surging billows roll
And dash around thy feeble bark?
And would'st thou seek the holy One,
And bending low before him, say,
"Great God! I yield! thy will be done;"
Then, humble soul, I am the way.

I am the way, thou weeping child—
Thou wanderer in the thorny maze,
By ayren melodies beguiled
Through dangers and forgotten ways.
In blood, in tears, in wind dismay;
By serpents stung, and rack'd with pain,
Wouldst thou return? I am the way—
I'll lead the back to peace again.

I am the way, thou mourner sad—
Thou weeper by the shrouded bier,
Was that pale form, in beauty clad,
A friend beyond expression dear?
And was that breast of frigid clay
Once warm with heavenly grace?
Go, dry thy tears—I am the way,
To his immortal pure embrace.

I am the way, thou wasted form—
Thou trembler—sinking to the tomb,
And dost thou shudder, feeble woe,
To pass through death's appalling gloom?
Dismiss thy fears and cold dismay,
And fix on me thy fading eyes;
I am the way, a shining way,
Through death's dark valleys to the skies.

Yes, all through life's entangled maze,
I am a plain, a lightsome way,
Which e'en the simplest soul may trace:
And where eternal sunbeams play.
O, let me never, never stray,
Thou true God of wondrous grace:
O lead me in this sacred way,
And let me see thy glorious face.

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Christian Folder.

Absurdities of Universalism. No. 1.
—It will be the object of the present and few succeeding communications, to point out the palpable absurdity of some of the sentiments held by universalists, when compared with the doctrines of the gospel.

It is a doctrine advocated by universalists, that men are punished in the present life for all the sins they commit, and suffer the whole penalty of the divine law. This sentiment is not only advocated by lay universalists, but is found in sermons, and in religious periodicals, and pamphlets.

The palpable absurdity of such a sentiment, compared with the scriptural doctrine of forgiveness, is obvious to the feeblest mind, that has not been perverted by error and delusion.

That all those who are saved, are saved through forgiveness of sin, is a plain and prominent doctrine of the gospel.—David says, "If thou Lord should mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared." He also prayed for the forgiveness of sin. "For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great." He speaks too, of the blessedness of those who are the subjects of forgiveness. "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Paul says in speaking of Christ, "Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sin."—And again he says, "In him (that is Christ) have we redemption, even the forgiveness of sin, according to the riches of his grace." Peter says, "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." In Romans, the Apostle says in writing to believers, "Much more then, being now justified (or pardoned) by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." He also observes in another place, while speaking of the atonement of Christ, that it was necessary, in order that God might be just, and the justifier (or pardoner) of him which believeth in Jesus.

We see from the above questions, that forgiveness of sin, is a fundamental branch of that salvation, of which the gospel speaks. But let us inquire, what is meant by the forgiveness or pardon of sin? Is it as universalists sometimes say, the same as reconciliation to God? Certainly not, if there is any definite meaning in language. To say that forgiveness of sin, is the same as reconciliation to God, would be as absurd and foolish, as to say it was the same as meekness, humility and love, or any other gracious affection of a renewed heart.—But there is not the least difficulty in perceiving what the Scriptures mean by forgiveness: It is exemption from deserved punishment, or deliverance from the execution of the penalty of the law of God. In writing to the Galatian Church, Paul says, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us." To the Romans he says, "We are saved from wrath through him." This being the true meaning of forgiveness, how absurd must it appear to hear universalists assert, that all men in the present life are punished just as much as their sins deserve. It amounts to the same thing as to say that men are punished and pardoned for the same violations of law, than which, nothing can be more absurd and contradictory.

It is greatly to be desired, that all those universalists, who contend that every man is punished in this life as his sins deserve, would sit down and seriously reflect on its absurdity, if he ever hopes to be blessed with the forgiving mercy of God.

In my next communication, I design to show the absurdity of this sentiment, when compared with the gospel doctrine of salvation by grace.

JOHN.

Extract of a letter from J. G. Brewer, dated Covington, Georgia, Sept. 22, 1832. "We have just closed our third camp meeting for the present year. Our Annual Conference for the Georgia District met at the last. These meetings have been seasons of refreshing to many drooping plants in Zion; and many have professed to find the pearl of great price, the salvation of their souls, at them. We have great reason to be thankful to Almighty God, for the rich displays of divine grace manifested on these as well as all other occasions. Our Conference met, transacted its business, and parted in great peace and harmony. May the God of all grace keep us in the same state. We have had considerable increase, both in ministerial laborers, and in private members, the past year. The work is spreading in this country more rapidly than it has ever done before.—There are many becoming weary of the yoke of Episcopacy, and are throwing it off; and I believe many more will as soon as they get their eyes open. But there are some, who, from their conduct, appear to have sworn allegiance to priestly domination; and therefore are determined to support it at all hazards. But, nevertheless, the nine days of judicial blindness, I believe are nearly up with many, when they will, undoubtedly, begin to see, not men like trees walking, but every object distinctly.

"The opposition by the friends of Anti-Christian powers, is as formidable as it has ever been. Our appointment, for our camp meeting and Conference, had been published for more than twelve months; yet the old folks made their arrangements so as to have a camp meeting, only one mile and a half from the place of ours, which commenced on Friday, before ours, on Wednesday. The whole object of the arrangement was, no doubt, to thwart our appointment.—But when it was found that the object could not be effected, they then pleaded ignorance of our meeting!

"I am really glad that these aspirants after power, have not got the 'keys of the Kingdom of God;' for if they had, poor reformers would find hard times.

Truly yours, &c.

A. G. BREWER."

DUELLING.

We have often strained our faculties to comprehend the philosophy on which the duellist justifies the exposure of his own life, and that of his antagonist—but we cannot grasp it. We believe that it is among the lost axioms of morals, which never had a shadow of reason to support them. Black as midnight, and steely like a block of Damascus metal, must be the heart that coldly dies itself with the reeking blood of a fellow man even in fancy; but deadlier than the night shade, when it wills and executes the deed.

The blessing of heaven cannot go one step with the duellist. When he takes his pistols, and winds his accursed way to the field of murder, heaven resigns him—his guardian angel departs—his prayers have no avail—his bosom is bare, without a shield, to the relentless storm of human passion—and he ratifies anew its contract with the son of murder and revenge.

Honor! where is it? can it be possible that honor ever dwelt in bosoms so stained with the blackening curse of Cain! Our ears are pained every few days with the intelligence from certain parts of the country of these horrid deeds. But we rejoice to know that the occurrence of these acts in any particular district may be taken as the measure of its civilization. Rough, raw, and implacable, the demi-savages—the political gamblers—the reckless debauchees of those belts of our country which gird the homes of the wolves and the tigers, are those who most delight in these deeds which shock the moral sense of the world.

Those who are really brave men, and have any true principles of humanity remaining, may find a lesson in the following circumstance which occurred last month in England:—

Admiral Codrington, the hero of Navarino, who is a candidate for Devenport and Stonehouse, last week received a challenge to mortal combat from a man named Woolcombe. He however had no taste for this mode of settling a dispute, and at dinner given him a few days afterwards, alluded to the affair as follows: "It might perhaps be thought that he was fond of fighting; but there was no man who liked it less; and he never in his life took his ship's company into action, without feeling a heavy responsibility as to the necessity of taking their lives. He thought the Town Hall the place for settling a dispute like that between Mr. Woolcombe and himself, and he should be glad to meet him there, and the constituency would then be able to judge who was in the wrong."—*Youth's Comp.*

"DO IT; DO IT."—*Cred.*

A man in —, during a very powerful revival of religion, became deeply concerned for himself, and remained in this state for months. Every time he inquired what he must do, he was told to submit to God. He would immediately reply, "I would if I knew how." There were few who saw him that were not convinced of his sincerity. They were satisfied he wanted only to know what to do. Many were coming into the liberty of the sons of God, which very much increased his unhappiness. At length, as he was about to commence his daily labor, he went into the barn-yard to yoke his team, and having put the yoke on the first ox, drew out the other bow, and holding up the end of the yoke, commanded the other to come under. The obedient ox, cheerfully chewing his cud, immediately commenced his march to do as he was ordered. At this instant, the man dropped yoke and bow, and fell prostrate upon the ground. Those who saw him, ran immediately to him supposing him dead. But their fears soon fled, upon hearing him exclaim—"Let me alone, let me alone; for God has had mercy on my soul." In a few moments he rose, filled with joy, and began to tell those who had gathered around him, that he now knew what to do to submit to God; and that he had learned this lesson, which so many had tried to teach him, "from that ox." "It is," said he, "do it; do it." He had long been convinced, that he was willing to submit to God, but had not once attempted to do it.

LACONICS.

The wisest man may be wiser to-day than he was yesterday, and to-morrow than he is to-day. Total freedom from change would imply total freedom from error; but this is the prerogative of Omniscience alone. The world, however, are very censorious, and will hardly give a man credit for simplicity of heart, who is not only in the habit of changing his opinions, but also of bettering his fortunes by every change. Butler, in his best manner, has ridiculed this tergiversation, by asking:

"What make all doctrines plain and clear?
About two hundred pounds a year
And what was proved quite plain before,
Proved false again,—two hundred more."

When, indeed, we dismiss our old opinion, and embrace new ones, at the expense of worldly profit and advantage, there are some who will doubt our discernment, but there will be knowers who will impeach our sincerity. He that adopts new opinions at the expense of every worldly comfort, gives proof of an integrity, differing only in degree, from that of him who clings to old ones at the hazard of every danger. This latter effort of integrity has been described by Butler, in a manner which proves that sublimity and wit are not invariably disconnected:

"For loyalty is still the same,
Whether in win or loss the game;
True as the dust to the eye,
Although it be not shined upon."

Therefore, when men of admitted talent, and of high consideration, come over to truth, it is always better, both for their own and future times, that they should come over unto her, for herself alone; and that they should embrace her as a naked and unportioned virgin, an "Indotata Virgo," most adorned when deprived of all extrinsic adornment, and most beautiful, when she has nothing but herself to bestow. But, in the civil, no less than in the ecclesiastical horizon, there will ever be some wandering, whose phases we may predict, and whose aspects we may calculate, because we know the two forces that regulate their motions; they are the love of profit and the love of praise; but as these two powers happen to be equal and contrary, the career of all bodies, under their joint influence, must be that of a diagonal between the two. A certain non-conformist having accepted of a rich benefice, wished to justify himself to his friend; he invited him to dinner on a certain day, and added, that he would then show him eight satisfactory reasons for his tergiversation. His friend came, and on his refusing to sit down until he had produced his eight reasons, our host pointed to the dinner table, which was garnished by a wife and seven children. Another, on a similar occasion, attempted to exculpate himself by saying, "we must live." Dr. Johnson would have replied, "I see no absolute necessity for that."—But if we admit this necessity, it might be answered by another,—that we must also die.

Arbitration has this advantage, there are some points of contest which it is better to lose by arbitration than to win by law. But as a good general offers his terms before the action, rather than in the midst of it, so a wise man will not easily be persuaded to have recourse to a reference, when once his opponent has dragged him into a court.

We should embrace Christianity, even on prudential motives; for a just and benevolent God will not punish an intellectual being for believing what there is so much reason to believe; therefore we run no risk by receiving Christianity, if it be false, but a dreadful one by rejecting it, if it be true.

Power will intoxicate the best hearts, as wine the strongest heads. No man is wise enough nor good enough to be trusted with unlimited power; for, whatever qualifications he may have evinced to entitle him to the possession of so dangerous a privilege, yet, when possessed, others can no longer answer for him, because he can no longer answer for himself.

Villainy that is vigilant, will be an overmatch for virtue, if she slumber on her post, and hence it is that a bad cause has often triumphed over a good one; for the partisans of the former, knowing that their cause will do nothing for them, have done every thing for their cause, where the friends of the latter are too apt to expect every thing from their cause, and to do nothing for themselves.

EMIGRATION.—An article in our columns copied from the London Sun, states that the new township of Adelaide in the London District, containing 20,000 acres, which five months ago was a complete desert, without house or inhabitant now possesses a population of 1,000, with leading roads and numerous buildings, which though rude, will afford a comfortable shelter to their inmates, until time permits better ones to be erected. In the district of Gore and Niagara, &c. every part of the country lying west of them back to Goderich and Fort Erie, extensive purchases of land have been made by emigrants of property, and many new stores opened, among which we are informed is a wholesale one at Simcoe by Mr. Fuller on an extensive scale, and there are still many emigrants in quest of lands and situations for business, who have not yet located themselves. It is evident that the emigration of last season has done more for the western parts of this province than the ten preceding years, the emigrants being of a more wealthy class in general than any that preceded them, and the number greater than in any former season. We believe the House District has also received a large addition to its population, particularly in the neighborhood of Luke Simcoe, where Crown Lands have been taken up to a considerable extent by persons intending to become actual settlers as soon as time will permit. The number of emigrants landed at this port by the steam boats, was not less than 3 and may probably have amounted to 4,000. Many arrived in schooners and came by land from York and Niagara not included in this estimate, but the great body of the emigrants for the West, must have proceeded by way of the Welland Canal, as it appears by the St. Thomas Journal, that 800 landed at Port Stanley alone in the course of a single week.—*Western Mercury.*

From the Western Mercury.

SIR WALTER SCOTT.—The latest accounts we have of the revered author of waverley, announce the mournful tidings that all hopes of his recovery have vanished, and that this glorious luminary whose rays shed their lustre over the civilized world is on the eve of setting. When the grave has closed upon his mortal remains, the price that were denied him in his life time or awarded with niggard and unwilling hand, will be profusely showered upon his tomb, and his fame will live in undying splendor, until "the latest syllable of time is recorded." Competition having ceased, the tongue of slander will be silent, and envy will either slumber or aid in wreathing his name with those immortal laurels, which he so nobly earned and richly deserved. Sir Walter Scott commenced his career as a poet, and his first effusions were hailed with universal applause, but a host of contemporary scribblers, envious of his well merited fame, united in degrading his productions and parodied them in strains of subject ribaldry as dull and contemptible as the stupid authors. Dugusted with their unmerited and unceasing persecution, he had recourse to novel writing under the anonymous signature of Waverley, nor did he confess himself the author of these unrivaled productions, until their superior excellence was universally acknowledged, and their fame stood on a pinnacle so high that groveling envy or petty malice could never hope to reach it, or tarnish its brightness with their poisonous tongues. Thus to the malice of his worthless contemporaries we owe a new Era in novel writing, and those beautiful productions which combine historical information with amusement—productions that have never been equalled in their line, and perhaps can scarcely be surpassed. Even Byron in his early days assailed Sir Walter Scott's poetry with the shafts of ridicule, but he afterwards made ample atonement for the injustice and inhumanity of his structures, but not so—the inferior tribe of slanderers who, conscious they possessed no claims to praise themselves, wished to suppress and tarnish that which was awarded to others. Though as a poet, Sir Walter Scott did not possess the gloomy grandeur of Byron or the eastern magnificence of Moore, nor did he bestow the time or pains upon his works to give them the high finish that Moore and Byron gave theirs—yet, when we recollect that his bold sketches stood the trying test of dramatization which theirs would not, with all their polish—we must admit that his poetical pictures were truer to nature and his character more accurately supported than theirs. If we mistake not, his writings, taken altogether, will rank him infinitely higher, as an author, than either one or the other, and place him on the list with Spencer, Shakespeare and Milton. This is but matter of opinion and may be erroneous, but a little time we fear will test its truth or fallacy, for when his race is ended, the press will teem with the criticisms of better judges, who will assign him that niche in the temple of fame which is justly due to him, and this consideration alone induced us to venture an opinion on a subject so much above our sphere. Whatever may be the result of public opinion respecting his merits as a writer, it cannot be denied that his virtues placed him far above all his competitors in point of sterling worth, for not one indelicate or blasphemous thought has ever been recorded by his pen—and when he not only lost the ample fortune he had realized by a long life of unwearied industry by the failure of Constable & Co., but even became involved in debt to the amount of twenty thousand pounds more than he could then pay, he refused the liberal offers of his creditors, who proposed to compromise with him on any terms he chose and to give him an acquittance—his noble mind scorned to stoop to a compromise, and he wrote with indefatigable assiduity, until he discharged the last shilling of this enormous debt, principal and interest. To this chivalrous spirit we owe it that his wizard lamp is now silent, and doomed never more to awaken those strains that made the blood tingle in every vein, and thrilled the heart with ecstasy, for he sunk under his gigantic efforts to pay this accidental debt, and when he fell in his tomb, it should be given on his monument in everlasting characters, "here lies a hero and the noblest work of God."

PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

York, Wednesday, 31st Oct. 1832
OPENING OF THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT.

Soon after 3 o'clock, P. M. this day, pursuant to official notification—His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor came down in State to the Parliament House, and having taken the seat on the Throne, in the Chamber of the Legislative Council, and the House of Assembly being summoned to the Chamber, his Excellency delivered the following SPEECH:

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

The continued Emigration, unprecedented as regards the industry and capital transferred to this country from the Parent State, is, by its beneficial influence, forcing the Province rapidly forward, and opening to you the fairest prospects. Your deliberations, therefore, cannot but render this Session of peculiar importance to the general interests of the Colony.

You will learn with satisfaction, that the population has increased not less than a fourth since the reports forwarded for your information last Session; that the Emigrants, with few exceptions, are fully occupied in the District in which they are established, and that the extensive agricultural improvements and actual cultivation, promise support and employment for our countrymen, whom the current of events may induce to fix their abode in this part of the Empire.

In directing your attention to these favorable results, you will find that, under existing circumstances, no subject is more closely connected with the immediate prosperity of the Colony, or requires an earlier consideration than the anticipated progressive increase in the number of Emigrants that will, from this season, annually flow into the Canadas.

The Rideau Canal has been completed, by the exertions and perseverance of the Officer who had charge of that National work. The chief advantages of the navigation cannot be attained while the unfinished works on the river Ottawa obstruct the passage into the Saint Lawrence: but with reference to the degree of improvement which the Colony has reached, and the interests of the Parent State, it must be obvious to you who are acquainted with the Districts interested by the Rideau and adjoining Lakes, and with the avenues to internal commerce, recently opened, that the expenditure incurred in thus accelerating the development of your resources, will produce in every respect a profitable return.

The Arbitrators appointed to adjust the claims, on the part of Upper Canada, to a proportion of the duties levied at Quebec, not having agreed on any satisfactory arrangement, a third Arbitrator will be nominated by the King, in conformity to the British Act passed in the third year of His late Majesty's Reign.

I am happy to be enabled to inform you, that the disease, which, by the dispensation of divine providence, has so widely prevailed, has nearly disappeared in every District of the Province. At the time when the disease first extended its ravages to the Eastern Districts, the Executive Government adopted such active measures as the exigency demanded; and I feel confident that you will approve of the responsibility assumed, and the arrangements made at the distressing period, for the preservation of the public health.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly: The Annual Accounts and Estimates shall be laid before you; and I trust you will make the necessary provision for the service of the ensuing year, and for the Salaries and Claims of the several departments not sanctioned last Session.

I have ordered detailed accounts to be transmitted to you, of the sums placed, by my direction, at the disposal of the Magistrates, on the urgent occasion to which I have alluded;—I have, I have no doubt, provided for the repayment of the amount advanced.

Honorable Gentlemen, and Gentlemen: His Majesty having acceded to a request of the House of Assembly, in respect to the appropriation of the sums arising from the sale of Land, formerly set apart for the support of Grammar Schools, and not alienated by the authority of His Majesty's Government; the Accounts of the Board under whose control the School Reserves have been hitherto placed, will be delivered over to the King's Receiver General, at the close of the year. In this instance of consideration of the King, in complying with the prayer of the Address of the House of Assembly, you will perceive the solicitude of His Majesty to promote the wishes of the Province.

It will be for you to decide upon the practical mode of applying to the intended object, the School Funds; and whether it may not be more desirable to appoint a Commission to carry into effect the measures of the Legislature, in regard to the distribution of the proceeds of these Lands, than to dispose of them