

# THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE. . . . . Eph. 2 c. 20 v.

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From Keble's Christian Year.

## HOLY BAPTISM.

Where is it, mothers learn their love,  
In every church a fountain springs,  
O'er which th' eternal Dove  
Hovers on softest wings.

What sparkles in that lucid flood  
Is water, by gross mortals ey'd :  
But seen by Faith, 'tis blood  
Out of a Saviour's side.

A few calm words of faith and prayer—  
A few bright drops of holy dew,  
Shall work a wonder there  
Earth's charmers never knew.

O happy arms, where cradled lies,  
And ready for the Lord's embrace,  
That precious sacrifice,  
The darling of his grace !

Best eyes, that see the smiling gleam  
Upon the slumbering features glow,  
When the life-giving stream  
Touches the tender brow !

Or when the holy cross is signed  
And the young soldier duly sworn  
With true and fearless mind  
To serve the Virgin-born.

But happiest ye, who seal'd and blest  
Back to your arms your treasure take  
With Jesus' mark impressed  
To nurse for Jesus' sake.

O leader gem, and full of heaven !  
Not in the twilight stars on high,  
Not in moist flowers at even  
See we our God so nigh.

Sweet one make haste and know Him too,  
Thine own adopting Father love,  
That like thine earliest dew  
Thy dying sweets may prove.

## CATECHISM.

Oh ! say not, dream not, heavenly notes  
To childish ears are vain,  
That the young mind at random floats,  
And cannot reach the strain.

Dim or unheard, the words may fall,  
And yet the heaven-taught mind  
May learn the sacred air, and all  
The harmony unwind.

Was not our Lord a little child,  
Taught by degrees to pray,  
By father dear and mother mild  
Instructed day by day ?

And lov'd He not of heaven to talk  
With children in his sight,  
To meet them in his daily walk,  
And to his arms invite.

What though around His throne of fire  
The everlasting chant  
Be wafted from the seraph choir  
In glory jubilant !

Yet stoops He, ever pleased to mark  
Our rude essays of love,  
Paint us the pipe of wakening lark,  
Heard by some twilight grove :

Yet is He near us, to survey  
These bright and order'd piles,  
Like spring-flowers in their best array,  
All silence and all smiles.

Save that each little voice in turn  
Some glorious truth proclaims,—  
What sages would have died to learn,  
Now taught by cottage dames.

And if some tones be false or low,  
What are all prayers beneath  
But cries of babes, that cannot know  
Half the deep thought they breathe ?

In his own words we Christ adore,  
But angels, as we speak,  
Higher above our meaning soar  
Than we o'er children weak :

And yet His words mean more than they,  
And yet He was their praise :  
Why should we think He turns away  
From infants' simple lays ?

For the Colonial Churchman.

Messrs. Editors,

I have lately heard some of our clergy complain-  
ing of the want of original matter in your columns,  
and I now beg leave to give you a few lines of my  
own, poor as they will be.

I would in the first place, express my astonish-  
ment at any complaints being made, when they who  
make them are first to be blamed. For my part, I  
must confess, nothing but the fear of my inability  
to offer any thing worth printing, has kept me from  
complying with your request to all the clergy, to  
become contributors to your paper. But what then  
do our brethren wish? They surely ought to know  
that it is impossible for one editor, with all his pa-  
rochial duties, to devote as much time to his edito-  
rial department as it could be wished, and therefore  
why do they not help him? Why do not all the  
clergy devote a few hours every week in preparing  
a short essay, which would certainly greatly enrich  
your paper, and increase its usefulness?

It is also observed by some, that it contains but  
extracts, or little else. But, admitting this to be  
the case, I would ask, are those extracts of less va-  
lue than original matter? We are so fond of novel-  
ty, that we are always craving for something new,  
were it ever so miserable. I, however, think very  
differently concerning the extracts in the Colonial  
Churchman : and you may be sure, Messrs. Editors,  
that as long as you will be able to supply your read-  
ers with the same kind of spiritual food, neither  
yours, nor their time or money will be lost. What  
matter whether what you give us is new or old, ori-  
ginal or extracted, while it is good.

There are also some people who do not like reli-  
gious newspapers, because they think it likely that  
such publications will become controversial, and thus  
produce feelings of bitterness betwixt different deno-  
minations. I also think such may be the case, but  
is it because a good thing is sometimes abused, that  
it must be laid by. I think, Messrs. Editors, that  
you have no cause for discouragement since the Co-  
lonial Churchman has been in the hands of the pub-  
lic. If you could see with what eagerness and plea-  
sure it is read by very many, both in our towns  
and all over the country, how it has already strength-  
ened the attachment of not a few to our church; how

it has increased the zeal of all those that read it, by  
giving instruction and intelligence on many subjects  
which it is not always easy to convey from the pul-  
pit,—you would, I am sure, think yourselves amply  
rewarded for all your labours. There is yet another  
objection to religious newspapers on the minds of  
some very good men. They think that it is making  
the word of God too common; that such papers are  
apt to be torn to pieces and destroyed. But here a-  
gain is another abuse. It is not surely intended that  
a religious paper should be disrespectfully destroy-  
ed after it is read. If careless readers do so, they  
might do the same with any other good book. How-  
ever, what is especially intended by such a work, is  
to convey instruction to all classes of society, in all  
places and at all times, and in such a manner as it is  
most probable they will be lead to receive it, and to  
be benefited by it. If we were to give the word of  
God to those alone who will respect and receive it,  
very few indeed would be found of that number. I  
fear there is as much irreverence paid by the multi-  
tude to the preaching of God's ministers as to the  
printed word on newspapers. S.

For the Colonial Churchman.

Messrs. Editors,

I have for some time anxiously perused your several  
numbers as they made their appearance, for some record  
of the doings of the Diocesan Church Society established  
at Halifax, during the second visitation of the Clergy,  
held in May last, and which was truly an interesting one.  
But alas ! as yet my eyes have lighted upon nothing (but  
your own querulous remarks) that leads me to anticipate  
a speedy fulfilment of the hope at that time indulged in  
by me and very many others, that a new æra was about to  
dawn upon the Colonial Church,—that the barrier was a-  
bout to be removed which had so long kept asunder the  
clergy and the laity ; and which, by not permitting the  
latter to participate in the management of ecclesiastical  
matters at all, kept them as ignorant of them as if  
they were not in reality a part of the church. In short,  
that a bond of union was about being established which  
would be productive of the happiest results, and that  
at length the lay members of our respective congregations  
would have an opportunity afforded them of taking an in-  
terest in the concerns of the church, of devising means for  
its advancement, and of bestowing somewhat of the silver  
and the gold lent to them by the Lord, upon objects and  
institutions which have a paramount claim upon every  
christian, strictly in accordance with the views of church-  
men, upon such subjects—Yea, and that (though it be at  
the eleventh hour) in these respects we would at length  
be on a par with our brethren of other denominations,  
who at the present time, are certainly far before us, and  
who, I doubt not, have received many contributions which  
would otherwise have been appropriated among our-  
selves.

Now, Messrs. Editors, would it not be well for us, as  
it is consistent with the constitution of our church, to take  
a lesson from our "left handed brethren," as I have heard  
them called—"sas est et ab hoste doceri." Though I am  
far from intimating that our dissenting brethren stand in  
that relationship to us; no, I was early taught in that excel-  
lent summary of doctrine and duty, the Church Catechism,  
long before I was able to read the word of God, to 'love  
my neighbour as myself ;' and deeply would I regret to be  
found infringing that fundamental rule of our holy religion,  
even should my love not be reciprocated. I say would it