

PORTFOLIO PICTURES FROM THE PULPIT.

NO. 11.

HAVE you seen an artist endeavouring to take the likeness of a face that changes its expression every moment? Our present position is very similar to that of an individual so situated. The Rev. Mr. — is a compound—a happy union of many characters, all so well blended and nicely balanced, and purified, moreover, by Divine Grace, that they compose a most admirable whole.

As a preacher, Mr. — labours under one disadvantage; we mean the absence of the faculty of assuming a serious countenance.—In expatiating on the terrible, the sublime, the pathetic, his face wears the same open, honest, goodnatured, we had almost said jocose aspect, as it would were he descending on the most pleasant and favourite theme,—so that one not intimately acquainted with him would be ready to charge him with insincerity.

Few public speakers possess more native talent than the one now before us. His command of language is extraordinary—His imagery is beautiful—his illustrations very happy—his figures natural, seldom forced. His best pulpit efforts are those which include detailed descriptions of persons, places, things, or events.—Abstract subjects seldom form the topic of his discourses, and he seems to avoid polemical divinity, metaphysical disquisitions, and abstract reasoning.

It is probable he would derive more pleasure from the perusal of any historical author than from the perusal of such works as those of Locke, Newton, or Bacon.

Few public speakers excel him on the platform. His sallies of wit are irresistible; here he gives full scope to the exercise of a glowing imagination and lays earth, air, seas, and skies under contribution, to supply him with imagery and illustration; thus rivetting the attention of his hearers by the sublimity and beauty of his ideas. Now he is towering away in the heavens, by his lofty conceptions; and then, by some remark bordering on the ridiculous, he descends to earth again, surrounded by a laughing and delighted auditory.

His pulpit ministrations, plain simple and beautiful, are calculated to affect the heart, and do good; while his boundless good nature, and good humour, united with unaffected piety, will always render him a favourite.

“Even children followed, with endearing wile,
And plucked his gown to share the good man's smile.”

In the account of the Anniversary of the Baptist Missionary Society, published in our last, the following paragraph was accidentally omitted:—

The Rev. J. Angus then read the report, from which it appeared that the income of the past year had been 21,840l. 12s., and the expenditure 22,831l. 1s., making a total of 230,837l. since 1831. In India a greater number of converts had been added to the churches than in any previous year of the Society's existence; and the educational establishments were reported to be highly flourishing. In Jamaica the number of members was 83,644. The report closed with a powerful appeal to the sympathy and aid of the supporters of the Society.

NEWSPAPER WRITING.

It is not so easy to write for a newspaper as people suppose. A man may be a good scholar, a profound thinker, and a vigilant observer of passing events, without being able to write for a newspaper. The power of writing a leading article for a newspaper is a *tact* which few possess, and which I have known many, with all their earning and diligence, unable to acquire. It

requires a large amount of information on a variety of subjects, and a readiness of application that must never be at fault or the writer will fail. Few remember the editor is always writing against time, and the inexorable printer must have his copy, so that there is no time to revise and amend; but as slip after slip is written, the devil snatches it away, and one half is usually set up in print before the other half is written.—This exacts a decision of thought and a facility of writing which, like poetry, seems rather a gift of nature than an acquired faculty. And as to brevity, that is the most difficult task of all. Diffuseness in a leading article is like water added to brandy—what it gains in quantity it loses in quality. It is comparatively easy to write a long article; but to be able on the instant—without previous consideration—without having time to consult books or dates, or authorities—to concentrate the pith and marrow of an argument in a few sentences; to grasp, as it were intuitively, the real question at issue, and to present, in a striking point of view, that particular truth or illustration which the public mind is prepared to receive, and would be disappointed to miss, is, in my opinion, one of the most difficult operations of the human mind.—*Rawcroft's "Man without a Profession."*

CIVIL INTELLIGENCE.

LATER FROM CHINA.

The brig *Argyle*, Captain Cooksey, arrived last evening from Canton and Macao, having sailed the 15th of March.

The United States frigate *Brandywine*, 44, anchored in Macao Roads, on the 24th February.

The following paragraph is from the Chinese Repository, published at the end of February:

At Canton, trade flourishes, and the manner in which the first season's trade under the new system has been carried on, has, we think, shown that it works well. The authorities are friendly and reasonable in all their conduct, and have made progress in embracing the new order of things, though some of them are great losers by the change. The people of Canton and its vicinity have laid aside their expressions of hostility to foreigners, and we may hope a good deal of its spirit; and are loud in their praise of the officers in ridding the city of a band of villains and incendiaries. The residence there of foreign ladies, and their passing to and from the city, is gradually accustoming the people to them, and it may be hoped, will by degrees induce an intercourse with the families of the Chinese, which will at once gratify and instruct both parties.

SLAVERY ABOLISHED IN HONG KONG.—On the 28th of February, the Legislative Council of Hong Kong passed an ordinance declaring the laws of England relative to slavery, to be in full force in that Colony, except in the case of slaves introduced by persons not subjects of Her Majesty, who, on examination by a magistrate in the absence of their master, and on being assured that they can be free if they choose, evow their preference to remain in slavery; yet even then they cannot be removed from the Island without again going before a magistrate and declaring that they do voluntarily, and in preference to remaining in the colony as freemen.—*Journal of Commerce.*

From the *Detroit Daily Advertiser* of June 26.

AWFUL EXPLOSION.—Our city was yesterday shocked by the most terrible and mournful accident that has ever occurred in its vicinity.

Yesterday morning, the steamboat *Gen. Vance*, Captain S. D. Woodworth, left the wharf of J. N. Elbert, at 8 o'clock, with a full load of passengers and freight, for Toledo. She proceeded across the river to Windsor, and just as she stopped at the wharf, and was letting off steam, the boiler exploded. The sound was like the report of a cannon and was heard with fearful distinctness on this side. The fore part of the boat immediately sunk, and the aft soon followed. But this was of little consequence, compared with the melancholy loss of life.

Four persons at least are supposed to have lost their lives. Mr. Samuel D. Woodworth, the captain of the boat, the elder son of Mr. Benj. Woodworth, the late well known proprietor of the Steamboat Hotel, was thrown into the air and killed. His body was found some hours after-

ward, in the river. The body of George Sweeney, of Chatham, C. W., formerly employed on the Kent, has also been found. Robert Motherwill, engineer of the ferry boat *United*, who had just stepped on board the *Vance*, is also supposed to be killed, though his body has not been found.

Major A. C. Truax, of Truax, one of our oldest and most respectable citizens, was frightfully and mortally wounded; and though living at the moment of writing, cannot survive. Mr. Gaylord, the engineer of the *Vance*, was severely but not dangerously injured, and also two of the firemen, whose names we have not learned. Some 30 or 40 passengers were on board, and their preservation is almost miraculous.

The boat is of course an utter wreck, and her cargo all, or nearly all lost. It is of course too early to judge calmly of the cause of the explosion, but it is due to Mr. Gaylord to say that he is an engineer of skill, experience, and of the highest integrity and fidelity, in whom our citizens repose entire confidence. The following statement by him has been furnished to us for publication:—

Mr. Gaylord, the engineer, says her steam was low, and not so as to blow off when she left the wharf on this side, but as usual on leaving port, he caused the fires to be replenished, not knowing that the boat was to land on the other side. But on coming to the dock he had her fire door opened, and himself raised the safety valve and tied it up, so as to blow off freely.—At the moment of the explosion he was standing upon the rail, with his hand having hold of the shroud saying to Captain Woodworth, “that he should have given him notice of his intention to land there, that the steam was making fast and he must not stop long;” that instant the explosion took place; Mr. Gaylord was blown from the rail where he was standing, on to the forward deck of the ferry boat *United*, and was badly bruised, and somewhat scalded; but not dangerously.

P.S.—Major Truax has since died.

The amount collected for the Society for Improving the condition of the Labouring Classes, at Willis's Rooms, on Saturday, (Chairman, the Lord Ashley, M. P.) was £409.

The British Association for the Promotion of Science will meet in York on the 26th of September, and continue sitting until the 2d of October.

A chronometer, which had travelled twice round the world with Captain Cook, was exhibited at the evening meeting of the Royal Institution on Friday. It was in most excellent preservation, and excited much attention.

THE JEWS.—FRANKFORT, May 10.—For some time past a violent schism has existed in the Jewish commune of this city. Nearly two thirds of the commune have separated themselves in a very marked manner from the ordinary ritual of the synagogue, and are about to form a sect apart. They call themselves the Reformers. They recognise neither the religious ceremonies nor the fundamental laws of the Talmud. In their profession of faith they declare that they will not any longer have their children circumcised, and they deny formally the belief in the Messiah.—M. Anselme de Rothschild, the head of the banking house, has declared an unrelenting war on this sect, and refuses bills signed by any member. The matter has been carried before the German Diet and the new sect is accused of fermenting and concealing under their religious tenets, political tendencies pernicious to the state. Notwithstanding these accusations, our senate has declared in favour of the new sect, and several eminent Jews throughout Germany have joined it. At present it is proposed to form a committee for the purpose of founding Jewish colonies in the north of America. Several petitions have been signed for this purpose by a great number of Jews and Christians. In these petitions the parties demand permission from the Emperor Nicholas to have the Jewish population of Russia directed towards the north of America, to make colonists of them. There is, however, but little hope that the Emperor will consent to the request.—*Galvani.*

DIED.—In this city, yesterday morning, James Albert, infant son of Mr. J. E. L. Miller, aged 11 months and 18 days. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully requested to attend his funeral this afternoon, at four o'clock, from his father's residence, No. 158, Notre Dame street, to the place of interment, old burying ground.