

THE EFFECTS OF SIN.

"Earth felt the wound, and Nature, from her seat,
Sighing through all her works, gave signs of woe—
That all was lost." — Milton.

THERE is no truth within the range of human conception more easily established, to the entire satisfaction of every serious and impartial enquirer, than that sin

"Brought death into the world, and all our woe!"

Turn we our eyes to whatever department of nature we may, those "signs of woe" are to be seen. If we look at the earth itself, do not its earthquakes, which shake whole countries—and its volcanoes, which pour their fiery lava over devoted cities—give indications of awful commotions in its centre, and prove, that still she feels "the wound?" Storms and hurricanes sweep over its surface, carrying devastation in their path: they blow the ocean into a foam, and

—"take the ruffian billows by the top,
Curling their monstrous heads, and hanging them,
With deaf'ning clamours, in the slippery clouds,
That with the burly death itself awakes."

They dash the fated vessel on the rocks, and she suddenly disappears as a thing "blotted out of creation."

The thunders roar through the heavens, and tramp through the clouds, sounding like the voice of an angry Deity. The lightnings dash through the sky, as though vials of wrath were poured out upon the guilty nations. Noxious weeds spring up spontaneously upon the earth's surface—thorns and thistles are brought forth abundantly—poisonous vegetables and minerals abound—all testifying to the same humiliating truth.

The animal kingdom, too, presents a scene of pursuit, fear, fighting, ferocity, blood, and carnage. Even man himself is not exempt from the general disorder and apparent disorganisation. In the sweat of his brow he eats bread, till he returns to the ground from whence he was taken. Poverty and pain, mental distress and agony, all hold him in their terrible grasp. The history of the world is but a history of crime:—Man destroying his fellow man—murders, assassinations, parricide, homicide, fratricide, intrigue, ambition, debauchery, ignorance, superstition—nation striving against nation—tens of thousands meeting in deadly strife. There are also national calamities, national insurrections, and national griefs—fraud and treachery—conflagrations—conjugal infelicity, domestic bereavements, and loss of friends. Then, lastly—humiliating fact!—every individual has that within him, of which the commotion amid the elements of nature are but emblems—the heart "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

Reader! wilt thou, by thy piety and virtue, contribute, in thy humble degree, to the restoration of order, and pray that the glorious period may soon arrive, when the "wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them; the cow and the bear shall feed, their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the hole of the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all His holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

MONTREAL has always been remarkable for the generosity and benevolence of its inhabitants. On every hand, we behold benevo-

lent institutions, raised and supported by the liberality of our citizens, which are eminently calculated to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and destitute. At this season of the year especially, the poor claim our attention and relief; and no man is excusable in the sight of Him with whom we have to do, "who, seeing his brother in need, shutteth up his bowels of compassion against him, saying, 'Be thou warm and fed,' whilst he has it in his power to relieve his necessities, and secure to himself the enjoyment of 'the luxury of doing good.'" We have been led to these remarks by noticing in contemporary journals justly merited encomiums upon the conduct of the Hon. A. Ferrie, and other benevolent and public spirited individuals in elevated stations, in this city, in making provision for supplying the poor with cheap fuel; to whom we have much pleasure in presenting our humble meed of praise, and in expressing our admiration of such a noble and disinterested act of charity. We sincerely hope that the distinguished example thus furnished may induce many to sympathise with and administer to the necessities of the destitute, and that all may be influenced by that Divine declaration, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord, and He will repay it."

ON ILL TEMPER.

"A quiet spirit is in the sight of God of great price."

There are few of the evils of our fallen nature more difficult to be subdued than peevishness, and ill-temper; and, it may be added, there are few which render their unhappy possessor more unlovely or more repulsive: for the peevish man is not only unhappy himself, but he renders all around him unhappy also. There are many excellent characters, who in almost every other respect live unblameably, who have this feeling as a drawback to their virtues. A meek and amiable man, though he may be destitute of true religion, is, nevertheless, one who commands our esteem; while the individual who manifests impatience and anger on the most trifling provocation, though he may profess to have experienced a change of heart, is one whom we avoid, rather than choose, as an associate. By some it may be doubted whether such an individual has experienced the change we have mentioned; we do not take upon ourselves to decide the point, but would prefer learning to the most charitable side.

This unhappy disposition—this most disagreeable temper—is indulged in the family, in the store, and among dependants; and when repeatedly exhibited, must necessarily leave a very unfavourable impression of the religious character of the individual on the minds of those who witness such ebullitions of peevishness.

Constitutional weakness is sometimes pleaded in extenuation of this *infirmity* (as it is called.) Let those who vindicate their infirmities in this way, learn self-control,—let them but try to curb themselves in this particular, praying for grace and strength,—and they will no longer be a reproach to the church, their conduct will be invariably consistent with their profession; then will they learn the delightful truth, that religion can

Lay the rough paths of peevish nature even,
And open in the breast a little Heaven.

RELIGIOUS ANNIVERSARIES.—The following meetings are appointed to be held, on the evenings enumerated below, in the Wesleyan Chapel, Great St. James Street: when interesting addresses may be expected—

On Monday evening, 24th of January, 1842.
Annual Meeting of the Montreal Tract Society;
On Tuesday evening, 25th, do. do. of the Sunday School Union;
On Wednesday evening, 26th, do. do. of the Montreal Bible Society;
On Thursday evening, 27th, do. do. of the French Canadian Missionary Society;
On Friday evening, 28th, do. do. of the Montreal Temperance Society.

The character of Sabbath Schools, and their importance to the rising generation, have become so fully established, and so universally admitted, that whilst nearly every other department of the Church of Christ has been the subject of the scoff of the infidel, and opposition of various kinds, comparatively few are to be found attempting to arrest the progress of those unpretending, but useful institutions. We have much pleasure in laying before our readers a brief account of the Annual Meeting of the Montreal Wesleyan Sabbath School Society, held on Monday evening, the 3d instant.

The large room in the basement story of the St. James Street chapel was filled to overflowing, there being from 400 to 500 persons present. About half-past six, the company sat down to an excellent repast; after which, Wm. Lunn, Esq. was called to the chair, who opened the meeting with a few appropriate remarks. The Secretary then read the Report, showing the schools in connection with the Society to be in a highly prosperous condition. It appears from the Report that there are connected with this Society, 7 schools, 7 superintendants, 105 teachers, and from 600 to 700 children; 80,000 verses of Scripture have been committed to memory by the scholars during the year—many of whom have experienced a change of heart. The subscriptions of the children to the Missionary fund amounted to a considerable sum. Several interesting addresses were delivered in the course of the evening, and some beautiful pieces of music were performed by the choir. The meeting broke up about half-past nine.

The third annual meeting of the Montreal Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts, was held in the Depository on the evening of Thursday last—when a brief but very comprehensive report of the labours of its distributors was laid before it: from which it appears that 32,283 English, and 9,553 French tracts have been distributed throughout the city and suburbs during the last year. In addition to this large circulation of religious tracts, a number of bibles and testaments have been given to emigrants and destitute persons, who were desirous of receiving them. Children have been gathered into Sabbath Schools, and some have been drawn within the sound of the Gospel, who had for many years past never entered a church door. It appears, to quote the words of the Report, "that the silent but powerful appeals of these little messengers have, in very many instances, been the instruments of turning many sinners from the error of their ways, and of guiding their feet into the path of life." The military stations in the city, with their various hospitals, together with the General Hospital, have been regularly supplied with tracts, and a greater number has been distributed to emigrants and amongst the shipping than in any former year. The jail being now regularly supplied, presents many encouraging features to the distributors, "a great change of character and conduct having taken place in some of the prisoners, which has been traced to the influence which the reading of the tracts, (under God) has had upon their minds."