

THE MESSIAH PIONEER.

Vol. I.

LONDON, (CANADA WEST,) SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1848.

NUMBER 40.

SABBATH THOUGHTS.

From the London Baptist Magazine for July.

Sabbath, thy rising day hath lovely smiles—

Bright are the beams above me and around;

They kiss the dewy forehead and slumbering eye;

They fill the leafy forest's deep profound;

Hour-mountain, peaceful valley, golden plain,

Are robed in sabbath hues, and wake salubrious strain.

Oh Sun of Righteousness! wilt thou not rise

Thyself in brighter glory on our souls?

Thou that hast gone triumphant through those skies

Where nature's stately orb doth dwell;

Shall he not send down his radiance, but shine down

Be for the best on high, and his bright world alone?

Wilt thou not make a sabbath's holy noon

Sacredly engage in our hearts to-day?

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LETTERS TO YOUNG MEN.

BY DR. WM. A. ALCOCK.

IV.—LIGHT READING.

So numerous are the influences which have an

unfavourable tendency on young men, by forming

unfavourable and therefore unhappy characters,

that one hardly knows at what point to com-

mence his remarks. I purpose, however, to bring

before your minds, at the present time the sub-

ject of LIGHT READING.

But I must define my terms;—and this, I

think, is its natural tendency. Yet such is the

operation of other circumstances and influences,

that people seem to have not only less time for

other purposes than formerly, but also less dis-

position to make a wise and profitable use of their

leisure hours, whenever they arrive.—The main

cause of this is, that the amount of time spent

in the study of the Bible, and in the study of

the sciences, has of late been increasing. We not

only confine ourselves more than formerly to

light reading, but we read still more "by snatches."

For this ever-increasing but ever-unfavourable

tendency, the present age furnishes almost un-

bounded facilities. There never was a time when so

many books and newspapers were circulated as

at the present day. There, again, they are ex-

ceedingly cheap. Few families can be found

who do not take one or more newspapers or

magazines; and not a few take three or four, in-

cluding at least one daily. Some, indeed, there

are who take from five to ten or twelve contin-

ually. One family I visited lately—that of a me-

chanic—takes fourteen.

I will not stop here to caution you against

receiving this or that paper, or journal, or mag-

azine, or to counsel you to read with care and

discernment. To this and other particulars, I may

return hereafter. At present, I only wish to

point out to you the danger of light reading, and

to urge you to read with care and discernment.

There are many who read with care and dis-

cernment, and who are not only benefited by

it, but who are enabled to do good to others.

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CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

We take the following from an interesting and

able article on Christianity and Socialism, which

we find in the *Christian Examiner* for the present

month. We regret that our limits do not per-

mit a more generous extract.

We take counsel now from the Christian moral-

ist, and ask what solution he can give of the

social problem of our age? In all ages of Christ-

ianity has concerned itself actively with the

condition of man, and the Church has never ut-

terly forgotten to enjoy mercy upon the powerful

and offer comfort to the feeble. The Apostolic

Church, in the enthusiasm of its first love, had

property in common for a time, although the act

was left free to give or withhold his own. After-

wards more judicious counsels prevailed, and

Christians, as they increased in numbers, shunned

the dangers of communism by relieving the wants

of the needy through contributions made by

based upon the idea of the right of individual

property, and a sense of responsibility to God.

By Christianity—the rebuke of oppression—the

emancipation of the slave—the elevation of the

labourer—the defence of the feeble—the pro-

tection of woman—the abolition of polygamy,

—the care of the poor—the religious education

of the people. It is obvious that without enter-

ing into any ambitious historical discussions, the

experience of any Christian denomination is enough

to prove the power of Christianity to remove the

social evils. Alas! that the Christian Church in

the present age is so powerless, that it is unde-

nable that the rise of the various denominations

has been attended with a constant development

of social virtue, power, and prosperity. Who

will deny that the history of Christianity con-

stantly illustrates the connection between Chris-

tianity and social progress? It is not only the

history of the Christian Church, but the history

of the world, which shows that the religion of the

Book of Revelation is a true and living reality.

It is not only the history of the Christian Church,

