

history when the grace of the Holy Spirit is not needed, or when we could be safe or happy apart from his sanctifying and his preserving power; yet there are periods when that grace and the consciousness of that acceptance with God, which it is his prerogative to impart, are especially demanded, and when without that grace and consciousness of acceptance not a ray of joy can gleam on the temple of the soul, and not a ray of hope can kindle on the destiny of the future. When that dread and solemn hour shall come that you must relinquish for ever all that you hold most dear and precious, oh remember, that then you can have no assurance of hope or of help unless you have now the grace of the Holy Spirit. Oh, when death shall close the eye that looks this evening on the preacher, or silence the tongue that moves in its active motions, or chill the stream of life that leaps in its living vigour, leaving you nothing but the icy and stiffened corpse of your former selves, the winding sheet your garment, the shroud your dress, and the grave your home; remember that then you can have no assurance of hope or of help unless you have now the grace of the Holy Spirit. Oh, when you enter that mysterious and unseen world that lies beyond the boundaries of the present, and stand naked and open to the eye of him with whom we shall then have exclusively to do, waiting in solemn and awful silence the sentence that shall fix your destiny for ever—remember that then you can have no assurance of hope or of help, unless you have now the grace of the Holy Spirit. Deceive not yourselves; all else but the grace of God implanted in the heart and developed in the life will prove at last but a refuge of lies; and if now perchance you are resting in a false confidence, and are the victim of a guilty self delusion, yet be assured of this that there is not a single hope on which you can rest apart from the grace of God, which will not vanish at last before the burning splendours of the judgment throne, leaving you then to utter in the expectation of the coming, and awful sentence—“Give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out.”

[To be concluded next week.]

Correspondence.

[Perhaps there is no subject on which writers so much disagree as the estimate they form of popular preachers. The various and conflicting opinions of different writers on Mr. Spurgeon, is a vivid illustration of this fact. Every variety of light, color and shade have been thrown on his character, according to the medium through which he is viewed, or the sentiments of the party giving a description of him, from the most fulsome adulation, down to the vilest slander. If the notice of Dr. Cumming from the London Pulpit, to which our correspondent refers, did him (Dr. C.) injustice, we have no doubt the following will make up for all deficiencies in that brief article. We do not question for a moment that this is from a more reliable source, but it would have been satisfactory to our readers to have learned the source of this article as they did of the former one. We shall be happy to receive our correspondents further communications.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Dr. Cumming.

In the C. Messenger of Jan. 27, appeared an extract from the “London Pulpit,” entitled *Ministerial Sketches*. The lineaments of Dr. Cumming, as a preacher, are there briefly sketched. If we are to take the testimony of others, these lineaments are as *incorrectly* as *briefly* sketched. My design in these lines is to correct false impressions, and to introduce to the more full acquaintance of many of the readers of the Christian Messenger, this celebrated, interesting, and most useful writer and preacher. In doing this I have recourse to sources of information more reliable than the sketch above referred to.

“Carriage after carriage is setting down its freight of fashion; cab after cab drives up, from which gentlemen hurriedly leap, and make their way to the doors of the edifice, and an unbroken stream of pedestrians flows in from either end of the Crown-court. Watch for a moment the countenance of the Church-goers; there is as much curiosity and anxiety depicted upon them as might be witnessed in the faces of the impatient multitude who throng the doors of old Dury on the first night of a new piece. And well may such interest be evinced; for this morning one of the most renowned preachers of the day is to preach on an all-absorbing subject. Cardinal Wiseman has sounded forth his trumpet-note of Romish defiance, and now the Protestant champion is about to enter the lists. We are at length in the Scotch church. Near the pulpit, on its left side, in a secluded place under the gallery, sit a gentleman and lady, with two little children. The

gentleman is of diminutive stature; his head is large, and thinly covered with dark brown hair, which carelessly sweeps across his capacious forehead. His eyes are keen and cold, the nose longish, and slightly turned up at the point, the mouth thinlipped and compressed. Two apologies for whiskers appear just below the prominent cheek bones. As a whole, the countenance is indicative of intellectual acquirements; but it wants energy of expression, or rather, the expression of energy. There is something of insignificance about it. But its owner is no insignificant personage. This is Lord John Russell, and those who sit beside him are his wife and children.

“Beautiful, exceedingly,” is the singing. There is no organ. The singing is congregational. Clear and distinct in its silvery sweetness was one female voice. That lady to whom it belongs is generally known as the nightingale of Crown-court-church.

The psalm of praise and thanksgiving has ceased: the congregation is seated. The minister ascends the pulpit stairs. He is the observed of all observers. Every eye is fixed on him; but on his assuming the attitude of prayer, each head is bowed, reverence banishes curiosity, and a deep solemn hush pervades the place.

The prayer commences. It is extemporaneous, as all prayer should be, and it is deeply fervent and devotional. Dr. Cumming's prayer was a model of its kind. There were no tiresome repetitions, no daring approaches to the Divine presence, no presumptuous requests.

The preacher is of the middle height, perhaps rather above it. His face is a remarkably fine one. A glance at it might convince any ordinary observer that it belongs to one whose mind is not of the common stamp. Look at that high, broad forehead, across which dark, very dark hair sweeps, revealing the ample temples, and behind that barrier you will feel assured, is a brain of uncommon capacity.

Opening a little Bible, which he holds with both hands, Dr. C. commences his discourse by reading his text. Very clear and musical is his voice. Although by no means loud, it can be heard with the utmost distinctness in the most distant part of the Church. Without a single preliminary “hem,” or a moments pause for the purpose of collecting his ideas, he at once commences the elucidation of his theme; and before he has uttered half a dozen sentences it is evident enough that all his matter has been carefully arranged beforehand. There is not the slightest hesitation; his words and ideas flow forth like a clear, continuous stream, and they are as transparent too. The eloquence of some ministers resembles the course of a mountain torrent; now with difficulty threading narrow ravines, now widening into a calm, lake-like expanse, reflecting the loveliness of the skies; anon rushing and roaming over precipices and rocky barriers; and then dancing in sunlight through verdant plains. Such orators startle by similes, attract by antitheses, and charm by variety. Not such is the character of Dr. Cumming's oratory. From the moment he commences his discourse, until the concluding sentence passes his lips, the current of his eloquence flows on calmly and untroubled. There are no passionate outbursts, no succeeding passages of pathos; little to dazzle, less to startle, nothing to bewilder,—all is clear, calm and convincing. His voice, which but slightly informs us of his northern origin, is remarkably pleasant, and, indeed, musical.

When hearing Dr. C. one is reminded of the description of “Silver-tongued Smith,” one of the celebrated preachers of Elizabeth's time. Perhaps there is not a firmer or more fearless preacher than the doctor; a fact which has been proved over and over again of late, as his Romish antagonists have found to their cost.

His action is pleasing. The Apocalyptic Mysteries and the Papacy are his two great topics. With respect to the Roman Catholic Church, he has long been known, as one of its most vigorous, consistent and uncompromising foes. As a controversialist he is truly great. No man can dissect popery so fearlessly, so mercilessly as he can. There is not a web of sophistry, however artfully woven, which he cannot disentangle; and his profound learning, great sagacity, and extensive acquaintance with his subject, render him the most formidable enemy which Cardinal Wiseman has in these realms. We doubt not that his Eminence would rather encounter the whole bench of bishops, than the distinguished and bold polemic of Crown-court. Indeed, the doctor has actually bearded the lion of popery in his den; for, to his dingy palace in Golden-square, he repaired, and there signally discomfited the emissary from the Vatican on his own ground. His lectures,

delivered a short time since at the Hanover-square Rooms, on “The Teaching of Cardinal Wiseman,” were masterpieces of argument, and they were listened to by as splendid an auditory as ever assembled in London—men who are arbiters of taste and masters of opinion,—with the most profound satisfaction.

Dr. Cumming is a very voluminous author. His style as a writer resembles that of his oral productions. The sale of his works is prodigious, and is productive of large sums; so that with the salary derived from his rich congregation, and the profits of his literary productions, his income must be large; and he deserves it.

Long may it be, ere it shall be said of the eloquent subject of the present article,—“He too is gone,” for the Church cannot spare him. Undazzled by popularity, unaffected by the breath of popular applause, he steadily pursues the duties of his calling, feeling that a great work is before him. His humility is as genuine as his piety. Scotland may well be proud of such a son.”

By giving place to the above, in the columns of the C. M., you may again hear from

LECTEUR.

Tusket, Yarmouth, Feb'y. 22nd. 1858.

For the Christian Messenger.

Donation Visit to Salem Cottage.

DEAR BROTHER,

Allow me through the columns of the C. Messenger, to acknowledge the gratifying and substantial expression of christian affection, manifested by our beloved friends, in a *Donation Visit* recently made at Salem Cottage. Arrangements were made with the usual liberality and promptness for the visit on the evening of the 27th ult. The weather was just what we wished for. Our friends, the members of the Church and congregation, with several from other churches assembled, and our *quiet parlour* was soon filled to its utmost capacity. A tea, lacking in nothing, was, as usual, the very *tasty initiatory*. After which, excellent music and conversation occupied the time, in which the *leading brethren* were arranging the *Donation*. This being done, Deacon Rand, in his accustomed good spirit and style, gave an address, presenting the Donation amounting to £62. Bro. Morton added to the interest and profit of the evening by a speech, admirably suited to the time and place. Devotional exercises followed, and all returned pleased and profited by the evening's entertainment.

Such proofs of sincere Christian attachment are of unspeakable value, and cannot be measured by the pounds that indicate their material value. They cheer and encourage the Pastor's heart, and unite both Minister and people in closer union.

Our esteemed friends will accept our heartfelt acknowledgements of this additional token of Christian affection. May God grant them “Manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.”

Yours very truly,

A. S. HUNT.

Cornwallis, Feb. 16, 1858.

Provincial Parliament.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SATURDAY, Feb. 20, 1858.

Mr. Esson asked leave to introduce a bill for granting a retiring allowance to the late Commissioner of Crown Lands—read a first time.

Hon. Attorney General presented the petition of Stephen Selden, praying for the passage of a law to remove a technical difficulty which at present prevents him from recovering from the city of Halifax a sum which he considers is due to him for the destruction of his house, which was partially pulled down by order of the Civic authorities during the fire of the 1st Jan'y, '57. The Hon. Atty. General stated that a similar petition had been before the House last year. The city contended that the petitioner could not recover from them, because the order for the pulling down of the House had not been given by the proper officers pointed out in the Act. The committee of the House reported that in consequence of the conflicting nature of the facts brought before them, they could not arrive at any conclusion until the proper tribunals had passed upon them. The hon. gentleman further explained that an action had been brought at the last term against the Insurance Company, and petitioner had recovered £300, but the Company had obtained a rule to set the verdict aside. He had no reason to apprehend any opposition from the City Council to the prayer of this petition. He said he would shortly introduce a bill for this object.

Hon. Mr. Young said that if there was no objection on the part of the City Council, all difficulty on the subject would be removed as regards the action of this House. As the law now stands, the city is not legally liable for this demand; and if the City Council say that they are not willing for the passage of this bill, he thought it would be an extraordinary stretch of power on the part of this House to create a liability which does not

now exist. He was quite prepared to admit this was a hard case; but the question had now assumed the aspect of a contest between the Insurance Company and the city of Halifax. He thought a petition should come from the City Council asking for the passage of the act referred to.

Hon. Attorney General would not now discuss the subject in detail, until the bill came up before the House. He did hope that the city authorities would acquiesce in the measure—laid on the table for the present.

Dr. Brown asked leave to introduce an act to naturalize Gustaph Peple, Professor at Acadia College—read a first time.

Mr. Morrison presented the petition of the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Halifax, which was read by the clerk, accompanied with the report of the Principal in charge of the school.

The hon. the Speaker handed a letter to the Clerk, which was read, from the Speaker of the House of Assembly at Victoria, Australia, to the Speaker of the house, asking for the exchange of Legislative Journals and other provincial papers.

Hon. Mr. Young, in the course of some remarks, moved that the letter be entered on the Journals of this house, and that the clerk be directed to comply as far as possible with the terms of the letter.

3 o'clock.

Mr. Tobin presented a petition from W. J. Almon and others, praying an alteration of the boundaries of the City of Halifax—laid on the table.

The debate on the Mines and Minerals was resumed.

Several gentlemen addressed the house. Then the debate adjourned, with the understanding that a division would take place on Monday.

Hon. Mr. Howe asked the government to bring down certain reports and returns explanatory of statements contained in Mr. Laurie's report on the state of the Railway.

Hon. Attorney General and Hon. Provincial Secretary stated that the government had every desire to afford information on this subject.

Mr. McLellan presented a petition from the inhabitants of Truro, praying for the passage of a law to authorize the sale of the old Academy at Truro.

MONDAY, Feb. 22.

A brief editorial notice, in our last, gave the result of the division on hon. Mr. Young's amendment, in relation to the Mines and Minerals question. The bill brought in by the Hon. Attorney General was committed by the same majority as voted against Mr. Young's motion.

TUESDAY Feb. 23.

Hon. Prov. Secretary, by command, laid on the table, the report of the Superintendent of Education and Principal of the Normal School for 1857—referred to committee on Education.

Also an estimate of the cost of maintaining the Signal Station at Halifax, which was read by the Clerk, and referred to the committee on Trade and Manufactures.

Hon. Mr. McKinnon presented the petition of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Arichat and others, praying that the students of the College at that place should be exempt from the performance of Statute Labor.

Several petitions were presented. Several local and private bills were read a second time, and referred to committee.

Mr. Morrison enquired whether the hon. Attorney General intended to bring in any bill to prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors.

Hon. Atty. General replied that he had no such intention.

Mr. Morrison then asked leave to present the petition of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance, praying the passage of a law to prevent the importation, distillation, and sale of intoxicating liquors. Laid on the table.

Hon. Mr. Howe asked the government to bring down a Report of the commissioners for settling the boundaries between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the ground of their appointment, and all correspondence connected therewith.

Mr. McFarlane replied that the report of the commissioners was in course of preparation.

Hon. Financial Secretary made some explanation in reference to remarks of the hon. member for Colechester (Mr. McLellan), on the subject of the state of the revenue and the expenditures by the Government.—A discussion ensued in which Messrs. McLellan, hon. Mr. Young, the Fin. Secretary and hon. Mr. Howe took part.

The house went into committee on bills for the purpose of taking up the Bill on the subject of the Mines and Minerals, which was passed clause by clause,—then the committee adjourned.

The house resumed and the Bill was read a third time and ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. McLellan's resolution on the subject of the ballot was taken up. Messrs. McLellan, Howe, Tobin, Wade, Hyde and Hon. Mr. Young addressed the House.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 24.

House met at 12 o'clock.

Hon. Attorney General, from the Revising committee, reported three committees as follows: On the *Laws*—Hon. Attorney General, Young, McDonald, Archibald, Henry, Tobin, and Esson. *Bankrupt Laws*—Hon. Solicitor General, Wier, Young, White, and Killam.

*Railway Affairs*—Hon. Attorney General, Provincial Secretary, Young, Howe, Archibald, Killam, and Tobin.

Hon. Mr. Young suggested that a change be made in the committee on the petition of the Inland Navigation committee—as there were three persons on it, who were known to be adverse to the Company's claims.