

Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

"How precious are thy thoughts unto us, O God."

MIGHTY GOD, on whom the cares
Of the whole creation lie,
And whose ample bosom bears
The load so patiently.
Midst the worlds that lean on thee,
Thou hast loving thoughts of me.

Ever quickly thou dost hear
Thy children's feeble cry,
And dost keep them everywhere
Beneath thy watchful eye.
Midst the worlds that lean on thee,
Thou hast faithful thoughts of me.

Anxious cares and heavy woes
Oft agitate my breast,
And no balm that hither grows
Can give my spirit rest.
But midst the worlds that lean on thee,
Thou hast gentle thoughts of me.

For the Christian Messenger.

"Do good to them that hate you."

MATTHEW V. 44.

WHAT is it the Lord doth require,
That I unto others should do?
It is what myself would desire
That others on me should bestow.

If any one doth me offend,
What course shall I take with my foe?
I must prove that I still am his friend;
'Tis the Bible that teaches me so.

Should my friends and my foes, too, unite,
Yea, if all unfaithful should be?
'Tis then I ought to forgive with delight,
And cast resentment from me.

Oh Jesus, my Saviour, implant in my breast,
That Spirit which dwelt in thine own;
Then finally take me to heavenly rest,
Where offences shall never be known.

LUCERNE TANJOURUM.

Nova Scotia Church History.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Baptists of Nova Scotia.

PERIOD II.

From A. D. 1784 to A. D. 1800.

LETTER VIII.

FURTHER EXTRACTS FROM HARRIS HARDING'S CORRESPONDENCE;—FROM SHELburne—YARMOUTH—ARGYLE—CORNWALLIS—ANNAPOLIS—ONSLow—HIS ORDINATION AT ONSLOW. HIS REMOVAL TO YARMOUTH.

MY YOUNG FRIEND,

I will give you some more passages from Harris Harding's letters.

Shelburne, Aug. 27th 1791. To Dorcas Prentice, Horton. "It would have done your soul good to have been at some of our meetings at Liverpool;—some of the dear children of God crying out, 'This is the gospel that brought salvation to my soul under Henry Alline'; others at times dropped their old forms, caught the mantle and smote the waters, crying out in the assembly with a loud voice, 'Where is the Lord God of Elijah?' Dear sister Gorham, you would have gone off in a chariot of fire to glory. But I had some sore trials there too, with the dear children of God, who seemed to be more united before I came away."

Shelburne, Aug. 25th 1791. To Thaddeus Harris, Cornwallis. "O brother, stand in that gospel that Henry Alline once proclaimed to your soul, and others in Cornwallis. That is the gospel that is the life of my soul, and if I am called to it will not only suffer for, but seal with my blood. O dear, dear brother, he that called our father Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees, calls my soul to declare his righteousness made known to me in Zion. I have often, since I came away, felt a witness (when in my retired moments) from the Holy Ghost, that God would bless you in Cornwallis."

Shelburne, Aug. 23rd 1791. To Lebbeus Harris, Cornwallis. "I am surrounded by many who are saying, by every appearance, 'We would know what this strange doctrine would mean, whereof thou preachest.' But thanks be to God, he stands by me and has hitherto been my helper. My soul has often

drank of those pleasures that flow from the right hand of my Heavenly Father since I've seen you. Many of the dear saints have heard the voice of the turtle in the land."

Shelburne, Aug. 25th 1791. To Judah Wells, Cornwallis. "Last night, while I was crying 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh', to an assembly in this place, numbers gathered about the door. Their countenances spoke their opposition against the gospel. They railed and raged in a fearful manner, till at last a young man espoused the cause (as he thought) by carnal weapons. Several joined him, and the riot and darkness increased so powerfully that the people of the meeting, after separating them, shut the doors. They still continued making disturbance. I gave out dear Mr. Alline's 'Young man's song,' dismissed the meeting, and went peaceably home. Satan's Kingdom being disturbed, and the Holy Ghost giving me some utterance in speaking, are the only signs I see of Christ's kingdom coming among these strangers."

Shelburne, Aug. 25th 1791. To Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood, Cornwallis. "I hope you are on Mount Zion, beholding the everlasting fields towards the sun's rising. Many a time since I saw you Jesus has taken me to the top of Mount Moriah, where I have seen the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world to redeem us unto God. O the happy hours I often enjoy, proclaiming my dear Lord's gospel."

Shelburne, Aug. 27th 1791. To Green Randall, Horton. "I expect to set out for Barrington next week, on my way for New England, with the 'rod of God in my hand, that wrought wonders in the land of Ham and smote Egypt's first-born.' I believe, O Lord my God, that it will divide the sea before me, and bring waters out of the rock. Sometimes I can see a man stand and call, 'Come over and help us.' I assuredly believe God has called me to preach the gospel on the other side of the flood."

Shelburne, Aug. 29th 1791. To Mary Brown, Horton. "Being surrounded by the powers of darkness and beasts of Ephesus in this place, I shut myself in a room, sat down, began to read, and cry, and pray. Sometimes I would stop and rejoice. And O, you cannot think how the children of God appeared. My soul ascended the mount with unspeakable joy, and I saw Israel abiding in their tents, according to their tribes, and could hardly help crying aloud several times, 'How beautiful are thy tabernacles, O Israel!'"

"I have been in this place about two weeks, and the longer I stay the more liberty I find in proclaiming that name which you and I have found salvation in. Unspeakable opposition and darkness arise from almost all quarters against the Lord and his Christ."

Shelburne, Aug. 31st 1791. To Thomas Bennet, Horton. "Surely He that is mighty has done to me great things, and given me a goodly heritage in Zion. I have indeed, my dear brother, seen the waggons of Joseph and the sceptre arise in Jacob since I came away. I have had happy moments and meetings, and by faith sometimes rejoiced in that day that Abraham saw and was glad. O my brother, I can bless God that ever I was made a door-keeper in his courts."

"It made my soul glad to receive a letter from you, especially when I read of your having new displays of eternal wisdom made known by the Spirit of God to your soul. O that you might still continue to walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I know that God has given it to you, as he swore unto Abraham. Still, my brother, keep your windows open towards Jerusalem."

Shelburne, Sept. 1st 1791. To Joseph Dimock. "I am now in one of the darkest places in the province. There is no appearance of a reformation; unless it is their unspeakable opposition against the everlasting gospel. I set out (with God's will) to-morrow, on my way for New England. Pray for me, my dear brother, and always remember I am yours, in the death, resurrection, and eternal conquest of the world's restorer."

Yarmouth, Sept. 17th 1791. To Dorcas Prentice, Horton. "I was a week at Barrington, where was a great moving in people's minds. I left a number there crying for mercy, and some to appearance near the kingdom. Had only two meetings at Argyle,

where a general shaking appeared among the dry bones, and a shouting among the Israelites. * * Two or three have been converted in this place by means of Brother Daniel Shaw."

Yarmouth, Oct. 29th 1791. To William Alline, Falmouth. "The lowing of the milch kine is heard in this land. The angel of the Lord is riding on the white horse through Barrington. Three are converted; numbers under great distress, groaning for mercy; and almost every soul is shocked through the place. Jesus also spreads his blessed wings over Argyle; his kingdom is come into three souls in that place, of late, and several are waiting heavily under their guilt. The saints frequently in meeting are crying aloud, 'The sword of the Lord and of Gideon,' and righteousness breaks in like an overflowing flood into our assemblies."

Argyle, Feb. 14th. 1792. To Thomas Bennett, Horton. "I have seen the power of my God in a wonderful manner since I came away. As many as twenty savingly united to God."

Yarmouth, April 6th 1792. To Thomas Bennet, Horton. "Never did I see the goings of my God in such a wonderful manner I think, before. The young converts truly bear the image of their dying Lord in a heavenly manner. We have indeed, my brother, happy, happy meetings. The soul of your unworthy friend is a hundred fold rewarded. Blessed be God for ever putting me into the ministry. O could I see you again, how would I tell you, my brother, what great things my dying Lord has revealed to me since I saw you last. Near fifty in the last reformation are savingly born again, and can 'lap with the tongue.' Very few that have been awakened turn back again to the world; but in Barrington and Argyle we have been beset in a most diabolical manner with hypocritical counterfeits. Yet the fire of God in his children has quite consumed them, at least so far as that there is not one, that I know of, held a christian, but can say 'Shibboleth.'"

"There were three young men belonging to Barrington, who shipped on board of a vessel last fall, bound for the West Indies, in order to get clear of the reformation, two of them being greatly awakened by the Spirit of God. Last Saturday evening the vessel returned, with the news of two of them dying on their passage home with the small pox, and the other sick with it on board. Sabbath morning as I was praying in meeting it came to my mind to pray for him. I had no sooner mentioned his name than my soul felt such union with him, I was sure the Lord had washed him in his blood. I could hardly speak, and as soon as I concluded I saw the Christians and almost all the assembly in tears. When meeting was over we declared to the people what God had revealed to us by his Spirit. On Thursday I went to a house where they had carried this young man the day before. As soon as I came to the door he cried out, 'Oh! Mr. Harding';—then, after recovering himself a little, he said—

'You cannot tell what sorrows Christ has carried me through since I saw you last. After we had got to sea, I began to think what means I had taken to wear my distress off my mind, and grew afraid my soul was lost for ever. It still followed me continually that I had sold my soul and Christ, for about two weeks. All this time I was cursed by the Captain and all hands in a most dreadful manner, as a dull, melancholy fellow. One night it being my watch upon deck, I was thinking in dreadful distress and agony of mind that there was no mercy for me, for I had rejected it, and it was gone for ever. All at once, I know not how, I began to think of the mercy of God, and these words came into my mind—*God will have mercy—God will have mercy;* and still as my mind run upon them my heart began to burn within me, and God seemed to come nearer, till my soul was filled with such unspeakable joy as I never felt before, and remained so in a greater or less degree for the most part of two or three weeks, and by turns ever since."

"My soul felt such a love for him while he lay telling me of it that I cannot express. This, my dear brother, is some of the spoils of the enemy that I have taken out of the hand of the Canaanite with my sword since I saw you last." Argyle, April 21st 1792.

To Thomas Bennett, Horton. "The blessings of Him who was separated from his brethren are poured in upon my soul from every quarter. And O that name, let my soul bear witness, that taught me Israel's ancient road, has by his Eternal Spirit pointed out the secrets of men's hearts of late in our assemblies, bowed stubborn wills, and caused rocky hearts to gush out streams of living water. Yes! my dear brother, sometimes the power of the Holy Ghost rests upon my soul, and I can stand with one foot on Ebal and the other on Gerizim, in the name of the Lord, and deliver eternal decrees and messages to saints and sinners." Cornwallis, Dec. 12, 1792. To Rev. T. H. Chipman. "The Lord has been passing through this land in very deed, my brother. And although many, too many, abuse their liberty in the blessed gospel, yet I have seen the blood of Jesus sprinkled on the door-posts of many hearts, and verily believe, as far as I can judge, the true light now shines clearer than ever before. The last days of glory are ushering in certainly for God's people. We have had some powerful meetings since I came into the country. The voice of my dying God has at times shook our assemblies like the wilderness of Kadesh."

Annapolis, March 25, 1793. To Thomas Bennett. "Last Wednesday evening God walked through the midst of Israel and shook the assembly like the wilderness. Truly, my dear brother, the coming of the Son of man was like 'lightning shining from one part of heaven to the other.' Some of the christians ascending the mount beheld the counsels of heaven revealed, whilst the resurrection of God's dear son transported and filled every power immortal in them. When any speak with a loud voice of the redemption of Israel, a sinner, it may be, in the further part of the room, would immediately scream out as if the sword of the Lord pierced through his very soul. Three or four are brought by the blood of the Lamb to Mount Zion; others brought into very clear liberty that were out of sight before. Several little children are converted in a powerful manner, and every day almost some come out as clear as the sun. The christians are all converted into it, and all say they never saw such a day of gospel glory before. All opposition falls before it, and the noise still goes on and increases."

Omslow, July 1, 1793. To Thomas Bennett. "I have seen the goings of God in his blessed sanctuary in this part of his vineyard. Some that were in darkness began to feel the heavenly day dawn in their souls again. Never did I see more openness in people's minds to receive the everlasting gospel. One has already found salvation to her soul since I came here. But the opposition exceeds all perhaps that ever you saw in your life. It really seems as though death and hell were delivering up their dead. But the house of Saul grows weaker and weaker continually, while the house of David and his throne grows stronger and is established more and more."

I have quoted largely from these letters, partly for the information which they contain, and partly because they present vivid pictures of New Light feelings and exercises. You will observe some resemblance to the recent movement in Ireland.

You have noticed the confident manner in which Mr. Harding spoke of his call to preach the gospel in New England. He intended to remain there a year, and then to resume his labours in Nova Scotia. In common with some of his brethren he placed great reliance on impressions, and often regarded them as direct intimations of the divine will, which it was his duty to obey. But he was evidently mistaken in reference to New England, at that time. He certainly wished to go there, and thought that the *wish* indicated a *call*. Others have entertained similar views, and acted accordingly. Doubtless "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." God guides his people—by his word—by providential events—by the influences of his Spirit. What we have to guard against is the supposition that his purposes coincide with our plans.

The last letter I have quoted was written at Omslow, which place he had visited several times, and always experienced much encouragement there. Omslow was originally settled by emigrants from New England, who