

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Autobiographical Sketch.

By Rev. Charles Tupper, D. D.

REMINISCENCES OF CHILDHOOD.

No. 2.

In the narration of events it is my intention to follow the chronological order, so far as this can be conveniently done. It is not to be expected, however, that this can be exactly remembered in all cases.

The next event that occurs to my mind, as worthy of notice, is that of seeking for hidden treasure. The Acadian French had been expelled from this region in the year 1755, about forty four years before the time to which I here refer. It was thought that they had concealed large quantities of money and valuable articles in the earth. Some of my father's older children fancied that a portion of these had been deposited in a place which was discovered on his farm. We therefore went thither, and commenced the work of digging. Though I was not able to do much, yet I expected to have a share of the treasure. After some time spent in excavating the earth, one of the children said, "We have got down to the pan." Imagining that this pan contained the money, I was highly elated with the expectation of having the cash in hand shortly. But when I came to be informed that it was the hard pan, or solid crust of the earth, and that its unbroken state demonstrated that nothing had been deposited there, my disappointment was great. I am not aware of having ever felt any inclination since that time to search in the earth for hidden treasure, or for gold imbedded either in the sand or in the rock.

Not a few "children of a larger growth" have been quite as much disappointed in their researches; and their disappointment has been far more serious. Future results are unknown; but hitherto, of the persons around me who have recently engaged in gold seeking, probably forty nine out of fifty have suffered loss.

It becomes me gratefully to acknowledge the Divine goodness toward me, that my parents were truly pious people. Prayer was constantly offered, both morning and evening, in my father's house, accompanied with the reading of the holy Scriptures. In his absence my mother regularly thus led the family to the throne of grace. It is exceedingly desirable that this example should be imitated in all its parts.

On one occasion in particular when my mother was engaged in family prayer, I remember to have heard her present special supplication on behalf of her youngest and dearly beloved brother, who had unhappily become a victim of intemperance. He was a man of talent, and had a good trade; but he involved himself, his amiable wife, and his promising family of children, in deep affliction by indulgence in the ruinous practice of drinking intoxicating liquors. While my dear mother was praying for him, I perceived that her heart was wrung with acute anguish. As I loved her ardently, her grief excited strong sympathy in my mind. It led me to regard drunkenness with abhorrence, as a fruitful source of misery, and a thing to be greatly dreaded, and cautiously avoided. Through the period of youth, and peculiar exposure to this temptation, my pious mother's fervent prayer exerted a salutary influence upon me. The circumstance now recorded has evidently tended to prompt me to take a lively interest in the Temperance Reform, and to put forth earnest and persevering efforts for its promotion.

In the sixth year of my age, my eldest two brothers having commenced house-keeping, accompanied for a time, till one of them took a wife, by one or two of my sisters, persuaded me to live with them. They resided on Annapolis Road full two miles, as the road then ran, to the westward of Kentville. At this place was kept the nearest school to which I could be sent. The highway has been subsequently made much straighter, and more level, and consequently shorter, than it was at that time. I recollect an instance in which the Mistress called me to account for coming late in the morning. I excused myself by telling her, that it was a long road—there were many crooks in it. This statement was correct. All who have travelled sixty, or even forty five years ago, from Cornwallis to Halifax, from Halifax to St. John, N. B. or from Partridge Island, Parrsborough, to Amherst, are aware that many of our roads then ran circuitously over high hills. Accordingly the road which I had to travel crooked toward the South

to pass over a prominent hill, it then crossed a valley and turned toward the North, to take a range of smaller hills, and finally verged southerly, and thence proceeded to the place at that time called Horton Corner, now Kentville. Thither I was sent to school during several summers; but in the winter, as the road was long, and was frequently obstructed by deep snows, I remained at home.

I remember to have heard it remarked that I "learned quickly, but forgot as quickly." This was true. What had been learned in the summer season, was nearly all forgotten in the course of the winter following. My parents were very attentive—especially my mother—to the instruction of their children at home. But I was seldom there during the cold season; and the relatives with whom I lived were not duly considerate with regard to this matter. I had, indeed, besides Dillworth's Spelling Book, the best of books, namely, the Bible. But of books suited to my years and attainments, and adapted to attract the attention of a child, such as are now common, I had none. While, therefore, my own neglect was undoubtedly reprehensible, yet, as I was not at that time aware of the intrinsic value of education, it is not strange that, under the circumstances stated, but little proficiency was made by me in the acquisition of learning.

Parents, guardians, and all who are concerned in the bringing up of children, should hence learn how needfull and important it is to pay attention to the promotion of their education at home. Doubtless an error may be committed by keeping young children too constantly and too closely engaged in study. But when they are allowed to pass months in succession without attending at all to books or learning, very serious loss must necessarily be sustained. Even while children are attending school, frequent inquiries and examinations should be made at home with reference to their proficiency. But especially when there are long seasons of absence from school, diligence on the part of those with whom they live is indispensable in order to keep them from losing what they have acquired, and to promote an increase of useful knowledge. Interesting and instructive books should be furnished; and attractive means ought to be employed to induce children to read with attention and profit.

For the Christian Messenger.

Christian Rulers.

MR. EDITOR,—

The questions of an Enquirer in the Christian Messenger of the 25th ult., appear to me to be on a subject, that might bear a little discussion at the present day, and not be far out of place, yet not for my pen, but for abler ones. On reading Dr. Cramp's answers, I was reminded of thoughts that have often had, but which I shall not stop to repeat at this time. Perhaps I may be allowed to express an opinion, and while I would not speak disparagingly of any one, I think that if more of our magistrates, and rulers, law-makers, and law administrators, were Christians, and conducted their business upon more strictly Christian principles it would be much better for the community at large. It would certainly be less trouble to carry forward the holy cause of Temperance. There would be less inclination to turn a deaf ear or to mock "if I may so express myself," the petitions of the people, when appealed to in behalf of moral reform, or the advancement of any good cause. Christians individually as well as collectively are to be "the light of the world," or the salt by which society are to be kept in a healthy state, and preserved from destruction. Let the Christian character be duly considered and it will be found that his usefulness may be extended and made more beneficial by putting him in places of trust. For my part I could wish and would pray that all our ruling men, might be men ruling in the fear of God. Let us act according to the injunction of the Apostle as laid down in 1 Timothy ii. 1, 2, that we may lead quiet and peaceably lives in all godliness and honesty.

Yours truly,

Inglesville, March 6th, 1863. T.

For the Christian Messenger.

DEAR SIR,—

In your note addressed to "Discipulus," in the Messenger of last week, in giving your reasons for not publishing his reply to C. Mosher on the doctrine of the resurrection, you inadvertently mistake the issue between us; I have therefore to request you, in justice to myself to publish this note.

The question is not, as you mention, as to whether a man, after death, has a "material spirit," for this is a contradiction in terms; nor is it; as you assume, as to the nature of the spiritual body possessed by man after death; for any conjecture on such a subject, as I have said, is merely unprofitable speculation. The position taken by us respectively is as follows: 1. C. Mosher affirms that the Scriptures reveal that at some future period man will come forth with a body made up of the same body deposited in the earth, and until then is without a body. 2. On the contrary, I deny that such a doctrine is taught in the Scriptures; and affirm that it is revealed therein, that at death man rises in a spiritual body, and goes to his eternal home.

Your readers will not fail to perceive that the question is not speculative, as a theory concerning what the nature of the spiritual body would be; but is a subject of clear scriptural statement, and therefore of the greatest practical importance. While we may not concern ourselves to enquire into the nature of man's spiritual body possessed by him after death, surely we cannot be, and should not be, indifferent to the Scriptural proofs regarding the fact that man has such a body after death. Such a question is of superlative interest and a source of consolation to a serious mind at all times, more especially in old age, or a dying hour.

With this explanation I concur in your decision to dismiss the subject from your columns. Yours, &c., DISCIPULUS.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Oak Island hallucination.

[We have hitherto avoided filling our columns with long accounts of this subject, such as have been published in some of the newspapers. We have, as yet, seen nothing which we thought a good foundation for believing that the treasure was anything but fabulous, in the worst sense of that term.

The following communication will be read with interest. Some of our readers especially if they are at all concerned in the speculation, may probable come to a different conclusion. We regret to hear that the operations at Oak Island, have been made the occasion of much quarrelling and drunkenness.—Ed.]

If the notion of there being money hid in the earth on Oak Island had, like many similar ones, ended in talk, it might have been treated as a bubble; but as it has assumed a serious aspect, and as councillors, magistrates, merchants, mechanics and farmers, deacons and church members, lads and spinsters, have contributed largely to obtain the deep-hidden treasure; and as it is well understood that thousands more can be raised for the same object. If not too late, Mr. Editor, I may add a little more to the general stock of information on this subject.

The leaders in this undertaking meet opposition in no very measured or mild terms; and if you think proper to publish my remarks you may come in for your share of obloquy; but it may be the duty of a public journalist to expose error and build up truth; and if this enterprise be a laudable one it should not suffer from investigation.

I learn that about 70 years ago the wife of a Mr. Smith then residing at Chester dreamed that a large amount of money or rich treasure was buried in that vicinity.

As witchcraft and ghost stories, robbers by sea and by land, were then common subjects of conversation, it would readily be suggested to the credulous mind that no other than the veritable pirate Captain Kidd, could have hidden so much money in so secluded a spot: the sum being said to be many millions sterling. It is now believed by many interested in the undertaking, that, when the old folks, as they are called, visited the Island, in 1797, they found a smooth road made from the shore to a certain oak tree, on a limb of which hung a tackle block having a piece of rope dangling therefrom, below which was a cavity in the ground, shaped like the inside of a bowl, and covered with rich clover, while the surface adjacent was rocky and sterile. As the particulars of the many years digging are generally known to the public, I will at once refer to the probabilities of the case.

Suppose Captain Simmes of the Confederate Ship Alabama, with his men, were to turn pirates and, after plundering all they wished, now tired of sea life make sail for some unfrequented coast, find a locality such as suited their purpose; would they as many believe Kidd did, make a good cart road from the shore to a cer-

tain spot; dig a pit to the depth of 110 feet, build a coffee-dam.*

Next dig a tunnel to the sea 640 feet long and 70 feet below high water mark, build a stone drain in it, and cover said drain with grass which would have to be procured from one of the West India Islands, lay a wood floor in the bottom of the pit, deposit their treasure, lay a platform, and then fill the pit up with earth; making marks at every ten feet by oak plank, lettered stone, charcoal, and putty, sink a shaft inside the coffee-dam to meet the horizontal drain and flood the bottom of the "money pit," with sea water.

From the report of the diggers we learn that the sea water has ingress and egress to the so-called money pit, which is a singular freak of nature; no doubt scientific men can account for the cause, probably it is a stratum of sand or rock from the sea terminating at or near the money pit. I learn that a well at the head of the Bay of Fundy always tasted salt when the tides were high, caused, no doubt, by a fissure in the earth from low water, communicating with the well, when the tide was up it found its level in the well.

It is a matter of surprise that so many business men and others could be found to give such large sums of money on the belief that Kidd or any other pirate could or would induce his men to bury their money 110 feet deep and make a stone drain 640 feet long and 70 feet below the sea to flood the whole with salt water. Had Kidd not plundered the shipping he undertook to protect probably he would not have had a name in history. Some writers call him Robert Kidd, Macaulay stiles him William. After speaking of the privateering at home, Macaulay writes:—

"The Indian Ocean, meanwhile, swarmed with pirates of whose rapacity and cruelty frightful stories were told. Many of these men, it is said, came from our North American colonies, and carried back to those colonies, the spoils gained by crime. Adventurers who durst not show themselves in the Thames found a ready market for their ill-gotten spices and stuffs at New York. Even the Puritans of New England, who in sanctimonious austerity surpassed even their brethren of Scotland, were accused of conniving at the wickedness which enabled them to enjoy abundantly and cheaply the produce of Indian looms and Chinese tea plantations.

In 1695, Richard Coote, Earl of Bellamont, an Irish peer who sat in the English House of Commons, was appointed Governor of New York and Massachusetts.—Then speaking of the high estimation in which the King held Bellamont he says "It was soon known at New York that the governor who had just arrived from England was bent on the suppression of piracy, and some colonists in whom he placed great confidence suggested to him what they may perhaps have thought the best mode of attaining that object. There was then in the settlement a veteran mariner named William Kidd. He had passed most of his life on the waves, had distinguished himself by his seamanship, had had opportunities of showing his valor in action with the French, and had retired on a competence. No man knew the Eastern seas better. He was perfectly acquainted with all the haunts of the pirates who prowled between the Cape of Good Hope and the Straits of Malacca; and he would undertake, if he were entrusted with a single ship of thirty or forty guns to clear the Indian Ocean of the whole race."

Again, speaking of the Government refusing, and of Bellamont urging the expenses to be paid as a private speculation, and that £6000—, the amount required was obtained,—he writes:

"A ship called the Adventure Galley was equipped in the port of London, and Kidd took the command. He carried with him, besides the ordinary letters of mark, a commission under the Great Seal empowering him to seize pirates, and take them to some place where they might be dealt with according to law. The press for sailors to man the royal navy was at that time so hot that Kidd could not obtain his full complement of hands in the Thames. He crossed the Atlantic, visited New York, and there found volunteers in abundance. At length, in Feb., 1697, he sailed from the Hudson with a crew of more than a hundred and fifty men, and in July reached the coast of Madagascar. Kidd soon threw off the character of a privateer, and became a pirate. He established friendly communications and exchanged arms and ammunition with the most notorious of those rovers whom his commission authorised him to destroy, and made war on those peaceful traders whom he undertook to defend. He began by robbing Mussulmans, and speedily proceeded from Mussulmans to Armenians, and from Armenians to Portuguese. The Adventure Galley, took such

*A coffee-dam must have been required; for had the men after they had made the tunnel 640 feet, dug upwards to communicate with the sea, the 70 feet head of water would have driven them out, consequently could not have made the drain of surface stone which is said positively to have been discovered, and which now gives the undertaking such a charm. A sailor on shore considers himself as independent as his master; what man would do in 1863, he would be likely to do in 1698; and if Captain Simmes were to order his men to do what our treasure seekers think that Kidd did he would soon get a piece of cold steel to digest. Would not each man rather cry out divide and we will look out for ourselves?