

# Christian Messenger.

A REPOSITORY OF RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL & GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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## Poetry.

For the Christian Messenger.

### GONE.

Soon the fields and gardens  
Will be drest in summer sheen;  
And the forest trees will rustle  
Their robes of living green;  
And the sun will shine so clearly,  
The birds will fit so cheerily,  
But the one we loved so dearly  
Shall see them ne'er again.

Break the pitcher at the fountain  
(The sovereign word is spoken)  
Let the silver cord be loosened  
And the golden bowl be broken.  
A maiden's days are ending,  
The dust to earth is tending,  
The spirit, high ascending,  
Returns unto its God.

Oh, who that saw that maiden  
E'er the spring-time last went by,  
With her cheek so fresh and blooming,  
Could have deemed her end so nigh!  
But the days are oft the clearest  
When the Autumn frosts are nearest;  
And the cheek that blooms the fairest  
Is oft the first to fade.

And dust with dust must mingle  
As the generations speed,  
But the earth within its bosom  
Shall keep the precious seed,  
Till the latter rain descending,  
With brighter sunbeams blending,  
This germ of life-unending  
Will spring from out the dust.

Yes, soon will come that morning,  
In light and splendour breaking;  
And those that sleep in Jesus  
Shall have a glorious waking.  
Then, Sun, O shine thou clearly,  
Ye birds, O sing ye cheerily,  
And let the flowers bloom fairly  
Above our loved one's grave.

Kentville, April 1865.

S. S.

## Religious.

### Bible Revision.

It is a pity, that when our last Authorized Version first came out, there was not at the same time appointed a standing committee of revision, to bring out a new edition every ten years, with such minute corrections as might seem needed. It would not have been desirable to modernize completely the whole diction,—far otherwise; but when a word has become so far obsolete as to mislead ordinary readers, it is no longer a mere matter of taste to leave it, or to change it. And such a bit-by-bit reform would not have shocked and unsettled men's minds, as a thorough reform of our Version now would do.

Even now, something of a gradual improvement might be effected without any dangerous shock to men's feelings. (1.) A manifest misprint, as 'of 'Strain at [out] a goat,' should be corrected. (2.) Some of the marginal and text readings might be exchanged, as in Philippians i, 'You have me in your hearts.' (3.) It would be good to put the words supplied by the translators in square brackets [ ] instead of italics, which, in all other books, denote the emphatic words. (4.) A few of the completely obsolete words might be changed. (5.) Some mistranslations might be corrected by a very slight change, as 'the angel,' 'the mountain,' for 'a,' and vice versa; 'our only Lord God and our Saviour,' for 'the only Lord God and our Saviour'; 'Godliness is gain,' for 'gain is godliness! &c.

But as the case stands, each individual minister is bound to put before his people, to the best of his power, the true sense of Scripture, i. e. of the real original Scripture, as the sacred writers left it. Let no one presume to say, 'It is of small consequence whether the people understand this or that particular passage. It is our plain duty to explain to the people whatever may help them to the right understanding of the Scriptures; not presuming to say, 'It matters not much if so and so be not understood, or if they are mistaken as to such and such a trifling matter! To be pure from the blood of all men, we must not shun to set before them all the

counsel of God.—Miscellaneous Remains of Archbishop Whatley, pp. 374-376.

"This do in remembrance of me."

### THE REQUEST.

"Son, go work to-day in my vineyard.—MATT. 21: 28.

Young christian, God is thy Father. Thy father has a vineyard, and there is much to be done in it. He asks thy assistance. He speaks lovingly, he asks when he may command; he says, "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard." He only asks thee to do a day's work, and a short day too. There is an eternity of rest for thee, when the brief working day of life is over. Go work then. Go at once. Go teach those poor children, and tell them of thy Saviour's love. Go visit that poor widow, and tell her of the widow's God. Go feed those hungry ones left fatherless in the world, and feed them for Jesus' sake. Go and circulate those tracts, which are full of the good news from a far country. Go speak of Jesus, write of Jesus, spread by all means in thy power the knowledge of Jesus. Do something to lessen earth's misery. Do something to heighten heaven's joy. Do something to hasten the glorious consummation, when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Do something for Jesus every day. At least speak one word for Jesus every day. Pluck up some weed of error or sin, sow some grains of incorruptible seed in some heart, if it be possible. If you work for God, you will have the company of God; as saith the prophet, "Thou meetest him that worketh righteousness, that rejoiceth in thy ways." Much time is lost, this can never be recovered; only a small portion of time remains, therefore double thy diligence. Go kneel at the throne of grace, and pray, "Lord, what will thou have me to do?" Rise, look about thee, and thy work will soon be made plain. There is plenty to do, and much that will never be done, except you do it. Work, then, while it is day; the night cometh.

"Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."—1 Cor. 15: 58.

### Assyrian Hieroglyphics accurately deciphered.

Twelve years ago Sir Henry Rawlinson read on one of the Nineveh monuments, that one of the kings paid a visit to a cave at the source of the Tigris, and there inscribed his name: also, that another king, the one who was contemporary with Jehu, king of Israel, visited the same place, and left a singular inscription. Mr. Taylor, the British Consul at Diubekir, to whose researches in the East the scientific world is greatly indebted, lately visited the cave from which the Tigris flows, and found there the very inscription which Rawlinson had described. No explorer had visited the place before; but the faithful rock had preserved the inscriptions of the two Assyrian kings, chiselled so long ago, and so correctly deciphered by modern science. These facts were reported a few weeks ago, at a meeting of the Royal Geographical Society in London, at which both Sir Henry Rawlinson and Mr. Taylor were present. The first living scholar in Assyrian antiquities may well be proud of this remarkable confirmation of the accuracy of his readings.

### A Momentous Question.

A recent convert from the most virulent infidelity told me that in his sober moments he had been often affected by the words of one of their female lecturers on her death-bed. Her friends had been urging her to hold on to the last, when the dying woman said: "Yes; I have no objection to hold on, but will you tell me what I am to hold on by?" Ah, there is the fatal want. Infidelity gives nothing to hold on by—no mighty arm to lean on—no gentle hand to grasp—no loving bosom on which to rest an aching head—no "mouth most sweet" dropping its honeyed words of comfort, and sweetening the bitterness of death with the blessedness of a heaven begun. No, no, infidelity has none of these, and of-

fers no substitute for them. It mocks the needy soul by giving it simply nothing! Alas, that men can be found so insanely wicked as actually to prefer the cold and cheerless delusion to all the joyous realities of a heavenly Father's love.—Family Treasury.

### Notes from the House of Commons.

#### CANADIAN DEFENCES.

London, Wednesday, March 29th.

The debate on the Canadian defences, on Thursday, last, was singularly interesting. It arose on a small matter indeed, but every one knows that a little question may carry a great principle. Among the items of expenditure for the erection or repair of fortifications in different parts of her Majesty's dominions, was the sum of 50,000*l.* for the repair of the defences of Quebec. This is the whole sum that is meant to be expended this year: but it is the small piece of packthread that is to draw along the heavy cable rope of a million or two more of expenditure in future years. It was known that the propositions of the Government would be sharply opposed, and the evening was set apart for the purpose. The Prince of Wales, whose visit to Canada and the States appears to have given him a great interest in these countries, took a position at an early hour in the gallery, and remained through the greater part of the discussion. His presence added interest to the proceedings, and perhaps brought up two or three speakers who would not otherwise have risen, while it made all speak with more than their usual animation. The members were startled, I think, to find that the opposition to the vote was headed by Mr. Bentinck: that stalwart scion of the squirearchy is not usually found on the side of economy when the honour or glory of Great Britain is introduced into the debate. These words generally act upon him as a red rag upon a bull, but on this occasion he was decidedly pacific, wanted to know what the Canadians had to say upon the question of their fortifications, and altogether was of opinion that we ought to wait till we knew exactly what they were going to do. But the main supporter of the reduction was—as everybody expected he would be—Mr. Lowe, the late Vice-President of the Education Board. It was no secret that the articles in *The Times* which had discussed this question some days before the vote was brought forward came from his pen; and when he rose he reproduced all the arguments with which his newspaper disquisitions had already made the public familiar. The weight of them is undeniable; but the greatest shock their cogency received in the whole course of the discussion came from the right hon. gentleman himself, who produced quite a ridiculous effect on the House by ending all he had to say with the admission that, though he thought the Ministerial proposition was absurd and even mischievous, he nevertheless intended to vote for it. Lord Hartington made a very good official defence of the vote, and old General Peel spoke with a spirit and vivacity that is not habitual with him when he insisted that Canada must be defended, though he threw little light on the question how. Quite a scene was produced in the House when Mr. Cardwell rose, and in his own grave, solemn way stated that since he had come into the House he had received a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, enclosing a telegram from our Chargé d'Affaires at Washington (son of the late Mr. Joseph Hume), that the Federal Government at Washington meant to withdraw the notice they had given for terminating the treaty of neutrality on the Lakes. A more striking instance of the friendly disposition of the Washington Government towards England could not have been given; the House felt it as such; and the announcement was hailed with repeated rounds of hearty cheers. Indeed, it must be said that throughout this delicate debate there was manifested a strong desire to be at peace with our Transatlantic neighbours. The fortification of Quebec of course meant the possibility of a war with the United States, but every speaker made it very clear that in his opinion such a war would be the last and worst of evils. As to the possibility of defending Canada, there were only two men in the House who could give any opinion on the matter from personal experience. These were Lord Bury, who spent several years in the country in a semi-military capacity, and married the daughter of Sir Allan M'Nab, who in the Canadian rebellion sent the sympathising *Caroline* steamer spinning over the Niagara Falls; the other was Mr. Halliburton ("Sam Slick"), whose Transatlantic experiences are known to every one. Both these members were decidedly of opinion, in opposition to Mr. Lowe's theories; that a winter campaign in Canada was as near to impossible as a thing can well be when it is attempted by the most resolute and daring of men. By the way, it is matter for regret that the House is about to lose Mr. Halliburton. He was returned by the late Duke of Northumberland for the Cornish borough of Launceston; but a short

time before his death the Duke sold the estate which gave him control over the borough to a Mr. Campbell, who means at the next election to return himself, and, I suppose, will continue to do so till the next Reform Bill takes the trouble off his hands. Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli were, as a matter of course, strong for the defence of Canada. Mr. Bright, I must venture to think, was hardly equal to himself. In his search for originality he became obscure; he could not take Mr. Bentinck's ground nor Mr. Lowe's ground, so he strove to stand upon an argument, which he slightly conducted rather than worked out, that the erection of these fortifications would make the Canadians discontented, and drive them to break off their connection with us in a huff. The amendment was, however, negatived, and the vote was carried by a very large majority, though it is to be brought forward again in another shape.—*Freeman*.

The following is a portion of Lord Palmerston's speech in the House of Commons on the above occasion:

Sir, this is not a Canadian question, it is not a local question, it is an Imperial question.—It is a question which affects the position and character, the honour, the interests, and the duties of this great country; and I hold it to be of the utmost importance to the character of the nation in a case like this, and when the great majority of the House seem to be of the same opinion on this motion; but that it should be seen to have been accepted by a unanimous House of Commons (hear). Sir, there are one or two points with regard to which I think it right to express my dissent from some doctrines which have been laid down. Many gentlemen have argued this question as if there was a general impression and belief that war with the United States was imminent, and that this proposal of ours was for the purpose of meeting a sudden danger which we apprehended to be hanging over us. Now, I think there is no danger of war with America.—Nothing that has recently passed indicates any hostile disposition on the part of the United States towards us; and, therefore I do not base this motion on the ground that we expect war to take place between this country and America. But it is necessary that when you propose to put a country in a state of defence you should show that war with some powerful neighbour is imminent and likely soon to take place? Why, the whole practice of mankind is founded on an entirely different assumption (hear). Every country which is able to do so fortifies its frontier if its neighbour is a powerful state, which might, if it thought fit, attack it. But it is said that you can't defend Canada. Now, I utterly deny that proposition (cheers). I think that is assuming a conclusion which no man is entitled to assume. Does the example even of the war now going on tend to justify that conclusion? The territory of the Confederates is vast and extensive, have they attempted to defend every portion of that territory? They have fortified certain important points, and those important points although the rest of the country may have been overrun have resisted attack—some of them even to this day, and others for three or four years of the contest (hear).

The amendment was rejected—275 to 40.

#### THE IRISH CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT.

Next came on Mr. Dillwyn's motion, that the state of the Irish Protestant Church was unsatisfactory, and demanded the serious attention of the Government. Mr. Dillwyn is an excellent member, but not a very lively man, though he had the merit of introducing a very exciting debate. His motion was seconded by The O'Donoghue, who, without having before his eyes the fear of the oath he took a few days ago, that he would not use his place to injure the Church Establishment, pleaded earnestly for the sweeping away of the nuisance. Sir George Grey spoke for the Government, and stated distinctly, as most people expected, that the Government would not meddle with the Irish Establishment. But Mr. Gladstone had something to say on his own private account. He would not meddle with the Irish Establishment at present, and so far he concurred with his right hon. colleague. But the Church was an anomaly, and it could not remain on its present footing. His speech altogether was a most important one, and I am much mistaken if it does not excite as much interest as his reform speech last session. It was on all hands understood as a repetition to the Irish prelates of the late Earl Grey's warning to their English brethren—get your house in order. Mr. Whiteside understood it so, and in his fiercest rhetoric he denounced the insidious attack of Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Grant Duff understood it so, and said that in that speech he saw the beginning of the end of the Irish Church difficulty. After this speech, Mr. Gladstone of course will not think of offering himself again for Oxford University. On the motion of Mr. Goschen, the debate was adjourned.—*Id.*

Courage does not consist in feeling no fear, but in conquering fear.