

ignorant fool." Professor Blackie has evidently not read a poem reviewed in the Athenaeum last week, entitled "Chemistianity" which, from the extracts given, must contain some passages of rare and exceeding beauty. What for instance, can be more striking than the following:—

Arsenic, the fool and villains' poison,
Is a metalloïd of steel grey colour,
Crystalline, lustrous, and very brittle,
It ternishes in water and air,
Unless they are free from Carbonic acid,
Heated in air, it volatilizes
Without fusion, but with rapid oxidation
And smells like garlic in arsenious oxide
Called in trade white oxide of arsenic.
Arsenic forms salts in Metalloid law
It oxidizes in arsenious and-ic acids.

Again the following from the Chemistain Song is marvellously beautiful:

Chemistain lore should be
Well known on land and sea
So sow the seed of Chemistry, so high, so
ho, so bee!

Professor Blackie would be puzzled to discover anything in Homer equal to this, but it is the fashion now-a-days to decry modern poetry.

The advocates of modern culture do not I presume, decry modern poetry, especially when so rare a production affords them the opportunity of combining the culture of the æsthetic faculties with the study of one of the most practical and useful of modern Sciences. Surely the opportunity for advancing the interests of true culture is too good to be lost.

Yours, &c,
ULTRITARIAN.

For the Christian Messenger.

FROM JUDGE MARSHALL,

ON THE HALIFAX Y. M. C. ASSOCIATION AND LECTURING ON SIR WALTER SCOTT AND HIS WORKS.

To the Editor of the Christian Messenger.

Sir,—For the information of Christians generally, in this city, and in the way of appropriate caution, I will here give some facts, remarks, and Scriptural authorities, having reference to a Lecture appointed to be delivered on the third of next month, by a minister of religion from New York, before "the Young Men's Christian Association," on the Life and Writings of Sir Walter Scott. As regards brevity, in treating of the subjects of the intended Lecture, I cannot do better than transcribe the following notification, which I have handed to the Chairman of the Committee of the Association, in the hope that they may see it to be their Christian duty, as it certainly is, to take the needful measures to get the Lecturer to choose some other subject, which will be consistent with his and their Christian profession and character: "Notes &c., concerning Sir Walter Scott's Romances. There are 16 in all, contained in about 2,400 pages, in double column. In his dedication of them to King George 4th, he calls them works of Fiction; and in several other places, Romances. In the introduction to one of them he says:—'The manner in which the Novels were composed, cannot be better illustrated, than by reciting the simple narrative in which Guy Mannering was originally founded, but to which, in the progress of the Work, the production ceased to have any, even the most distant resemblance. The Tale was originally told me by an excellent old Highlander.

All the profanities therefore, in the oaths, curses, and exclamations, in which the Divine name is used, and the other oaths, &c., in which the Devil's name is used, and the vile and filthy language throughout the several works, are his own wicked and polluting inventions. Some of these profanities are given, as uttered by clergymen, ladies, and other females.

In the "Waverley" Romance, the Divine name (or the oath "By Heaven") is used in oaths, curses, or exclamations,—as counted by me,—no less than
Eighteen times..... 18
In "Guy Mannering," in like manner..... 30
"Antiquary," "..... 8
"Rob Roy," "..... 6
"Old Mortality," "..... 15

In these five, 77
In the 11 other Romances, in similar proportion, 169

In all 246
of Oaths, Curses, &c., in which the Divine name is used, probably more."

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Exod. xx. 7. "Swear not at all" Math. v. 34.

Sir Walter Scott incurred the entire guilt of all those numerous oaths, curses, profane exclamations, and other vile expressions contained in his corrupting and polluting Romances, for he alone invented and published them." He admits that his novels, "in the progress of their production, ceased to have any, even the most distant resemblance" to the original stories told him. The Old Highlanders, therefore,

are not to blame for any of those blasphemies and profanities. They are all his own gratuitous vile and wicked inventions. If they had been omitted, the connection of the narratives would not have been affected; Most probably be thought that with the ungodly and the indiscriminating amusement seekers, they would give a spice and a zest to his lying fabrications, and that with the great majority of professing Christians they would be tolerated, and sufficiently passable or excused, because of the amusement the Romances would afford them; and truly, with both classes, his success, to this day, has been wonderfully great. And this is the profane, and wicked man, and these are his numerous romancing and blasphemous productions, which, in Christian countries, and with vast numbers of those who profess Scriptural and evangelical Christianity, have gained for him and his memory, admiration and applause, processions, orations, statues, sumptuous festivities, and other celebrations. Some of those professors have had the impiety and presumption, to say, "he was a great and a good man," "a benefactor of the world," thus rashly exposing themselves to the Divine announcements: "We unto them that call evil, good, that put darkness for light." "Abhor that which is evil." By all real Christians, Scott will be condemned as a wicked man, and his profane romances (x rated). A very large proportion of those professors, and others, are deluded, and as it were stultified in their judgments, by the admitted fact, that Scott was a person of great intellectual endowments, and extensive literary attainments. But are these, in any instance, to serve as a sufficient cloak, or shield, for profanity, or wickedness of any kind? But with vast numbers it is so, in the present day, and it produces a species of human idolatry or man-worship, irrespective of, and ignoring religious, or profane, moral, or immoral qualities, or conduct. There are also some, or indeed many weak minded and inconsistent professors, who say he has given, in those Romances, a view of the customs, opinions, and character of the people of Scotland, his native country, 80 or 100 years ago. Be it remembered, that those productions are not real history or given as such, but Romances, and the persons never existed nor did the events, sayings and doings, mentioned in them, ever occur, but have all been invented by him, to serve his own selfish purposes, and to gratify the base cravings of the ungodly and profane, the pleasure seekers and lovers, described in Scripture, to appear in these last days, as "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God," and from whom, all Christians are commanded to 'turn away.' The few persons, and most of them bad characters, and their habits and doings, in his profane and romancing works, are not to be taken as the real and general habits and character of the whole people of Scotland, at that time. It would be a slander on that country, or any other, to hold any such belief. That baseless and contemptible excuse for those lying and profane productions, is therefore, utterly worthless. But even if they exhibited true representations of the characteristics, and general customs and conduct of the people of that country a century ago, of what real or important benefit can such knowledge be to the people of any country, in the present day? It would do little else than merely gratify a vain curiosity, and produce useless and invidious comparisons.

In reference to reading those profane and pernicious works, and other offences, contrary to religion, it is remarkable, what a difference is made between them, as to degree, by many ministers and members of churches. While the sprightly girl, skipping about the room, to the parlour music, would be sharply admonished and censured, or possibly be cited before some church-court, she and the male youths of the family, will be permitted, and probably the latter, be even recommended to read Scott's romancing and profane works. Now, I will say, that while I disapprove of the dancing amusement, I am quite confident, and I think all intelligent and judicious Christians will agree with me, that with reference to religion, and in all other respects, the reading of these profane and other romances, is an offence a thousand times greater than the other. The distinction between them, here mentioned, agrees exactly with the saying of our Lord to certain characters, "Ye strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

And now in drawing to a close, I earnestly advise all young persons, male and female, and all others, who have a veneration for the Divine name, and the Sacred

Oracles, and desire to observe a consistent Christian profession, to refrain from attending at the proposed lectures. Finally, to the members of the Young Men's Association, to the Lecturer himself—a minister of religion—who will have to travel a thousand miles, on his very unsuitable and improper mission, and to all others, I earnestly recommend the solemn consideration of the following passages of the sacred and authoritative Scriptures, as being directly applicable to the whole subject:—
"They that forsake the law praise the wicked." Prov. xxviii. 4. "Remove far from me vanity and lies." Prov. xxx. 8. "In whose eyes a vile person is contemned." Ps. xv. 4. "He that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." Ps. 101. "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Eph. v. 11. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." Phil. ii. 12. "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thes. v. 22. "Be ye holy, for I am holy." 1 Pet. i. 16. "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." Rom. i. 17. Requesting the earliest convenient publication of this letter, I remain Sir,

Yours truly,
JOHN G. MARSHALL.

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. LETITIA WELSH.

The subject of this memoir, died on the 9th day of October last, 1873, in the 77th year of her age, leaving an aged husband, dear children and many relatives and friends to mourn her absence. Our dear sister professed faith in the Redeemer quite early in life, was baptized by our venerable brother Charles Randall, and joined the Dighy Joggin Baptist church, of which she remained a faithful and consistent member until God called her to join the Church triumphant above. She was a Christian of the good old stamp. She entertained very clear and comprehensive views of the doctrines of the Bible. God's electing love, and justification by faith in Christ, were the themes upon which she loved most to dwell. And when her mind became impaired by disease and old age, so that she could not converse as intelligently upon other subjects as formerly; whenever the subject of religion was introduced, she would converse upon the doctrine of the atonement, and her faith in that atonement, with as much clearness, as when in the full vigor of her womanhood. She was a very affectionate wife, a kind and faithful mother. She loved to entertain the ministers of the gospel at her house, and many of them whom she has now joined in the better land, have shared her hospitality in her pleasant and quiet home in days gone by. Our dear sister fell asleep in Jesus without a struggle. She was beautiful in death. Her funeral was improved by the writer in an address to a large congregation from a text chosen by the deceased. "There the wicked cease from troubling; and there the weary be at rest." Job. iii. 17.

"So grant me, Lord from every snare,
And sinful passion free,
Altho' through faith's serene air,
To urge my course to Thee."
—Com. by Rev. G. D. Cox.

Religious Intelligence.

WESTPORT.—H. E. Payson Esq. writes from this place:—When we look back upon the past year, we have much to be thankful for. While so many lives have been destroyed by the sad calamities experienced on the shores of our highly favoured Province, and sadness and mourning brought, to many families, the inhabitants of this place, whose occupation is on the water, have gone out and returned, and no accident has befallen any, and the prosperity of the people has been financially good—but in a religious point of view we have nothing cheering to communicate, Elder Rideout is labouring with us. On Christmas day a Woman's Missionary Aid Society, was organized, with fifteen members, which has been increased to near forty, with good prospects of success. We commenced a collection last Sabbath evening, for the Foreign Mission, to be continued the first Sabbath in each month, with Missionary prayer meetings.

As we have so many missionaries in the field, it shows us that we, with all the Churches of our denomination should be engaged in this department of Christian labour. We hope the winter will not pass away without enjoying a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Wishing you the greatest prosperity, and a happy New Year.

I remain yours fraternally,
H. E. PAYSON.

LOCKPORT—Jan. 2nd 1874.—Dear Bro,

The work of the Lord is being revived among us. The hearts of his people are gladdened by refreshing showers of Divine grace. "Blessed" indeed, "is he whose sins are covered" if he look backward, he sees nought but the goodness of God, or about him, his heart must fill up big with

gratitude, and if his eye of faith carries him upward through the azure depths, to the house of the Most High, he will find joy unspeakable. Blessed, thrice blessed, are the people of God. To be numbered among them,—what bliss;—to be separated from them,—what woe. All hail my brother? Know thee who thou art, a child of God. Weary and worn with the toil of life, yet be of good cheer, "there remains a rest." Once up yonder in mansions of bliss, and there will be no more racking of brains for thought, no more unrequited. The Master whose servant ye are will richly reward you for "faithful continuance in well doing." Yes, our hearts are cheered. Though the tempest of the world beat wildly upon us, yet the Master has risen up, and the clouds have fled before his voice, the darkness is over, and again we are refreshed with light from the Sun of Righteousness. Like the fishermen of old we toiled all night, and, apparently, caught nothing, nevertheless, pushing well out from the land of self, at the Master's bidding, we let down the net once more. Our expectations run high, we scarcely dare speak out our hopes, O for the faith of Peter that we might tread the crested waves of unbelief. We hear the battle cry in other parts, and are told that our Christ is all victorious. Heaven is made jubilant over the wanderer's return, its palaces are vocal with the music of angels, over earth's prodigals returning to their heavenly Father's home. Can God forget us? True we are only a little one, a Lot in the midst of unbelieving Sodom. Did God overlook Lot? We do not pray for Sodom's visitation, but the burden of our prayer, uttered with the tears of the faithful in Zion is, for the mighty power which fell upon Nineveh, that all may repent and cry mightily to God, aye, we look for a Pentecostal season, when a goodly number of our people be laid prostrate by the power of the Holy Spirit, and as the only way of pardon and peace "shall believe and be baptized," in the apostolic fashion. Am I too earnest? What! as a servant of the matchless Redeemer, with but a day to work for him; as a believer in Heaven and Hell, with but a brief moment to warn sinners; as a witness to the judgements of God which are abroad in the land, and the ravages of death among the people; believing as I do that those who die in the Lord shall have a glorious immortality, while they who are strangers to sovereign grace must sink forever into woe unutterable; with such knowledge as this upon my conscience, can I be calm, can I speak in measured accents? What! can a minister of the Gospel look on calmly, while, with fleet foot, sinners are racing to destruction. Believe me there are such men, who wear the garb of the priesthood. God have mercy on them, if they awake not soon, a "judgement day" will bring them to their senses. There are some things in theology which I understand but how a minister can be starchy, and formal, and cold, half hearted and indolent a minister only in appearance, I cannot understand, unless the man is unconverted or else forgets to pray.

Yours truly,
EDWARD WHITMAN.

DOMINION & FOREIGN NEWS.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 28, 1874.

QUEENS COUNTY.—Rev. J. A. Durkee writes from Milton, Jan. 16th, "Brother Ballentine has lately baptized three at Caledonia—nine at South Brookfield."
"Our Week of Prayer services have been followed by signs of coming good at Liverpool where there are enquirers. Meetings are continued at both places this week. Pray for us."

J. B. Lewis, one of the Ottawa candidates for the Commons, who had been ill for some time was dying on Saturday last. He is one of the oldest citizens, having been a member of the first City Council.

The "Canada Gazette" of Saturday last confirms the appointment of Mr. Huntington to the Presidency of the Council.

UNITED STATES.

The Senate on Wednesday last confirmed the nomination of Waite as Chief Justice without a dissenting vote, an expression of favor for a nominee to that office unequalled within the memory of the oldest Senator.

On Wednesday there was a great flood at Buffalo. The ice jam and water in Buffalo River carried away the Ohio Street Bridge, in its course sweeping ten first-class vessels down the stream, and piling them against the Michigan Street Bridge. The bowsprits of the vessels in their rapid course carried away Plympton's elevator, inflicted serious damage on the City and Niagara elevators, and completely demolished the sheds of the New York Central Railway Company. Loss estimated at a million of dollars.

The Siamese Twins died on the 17th Inst., at their home in North Carolina. Chang was partially paralyzed last fall since which time he has been fretful and strongly addicted to drinking liquor as a means of alleviating his sufferings. As soon as it was discovered that Chang was dead, Eng became terribly shocked, and raved wildly for a time, exhibiting signs of great mental aberration. This attack was followed by a deadly stupor. In two hours from the death of Chang, Eng died.

The Railway tunnel in Washington Avenue, St Louis, caved in on Tuesday the 20th, causing a loss of \$50,000.

On the same day a frightful accident occurred in Bennington, Vermont. An explosion, caused by a leaky gasoline pipe, demolished a sewing room, instantly killing nine women who were at work there, and badly injuring six others, besides many slightly wounded, and setting fire to the building, which was burned with a loss of \$100,000. The building was partially insured.

A telegram from Port Townsend, Washington Ter., announces the total loss of the ship "Panther," no lives were lost. The "Panther" was destined for San Francisco.

Mayor Havemeyer's message just issued shows the city debt of New York to be \$106,471,953.72, an increase since 1871 of \$9,084,428.69.

THE FREIGHT BLOCKADE which has existed at Portland for some time past is to be relieved. Sir Hugh Allan has agreed to despatch two steamers a week to Portland, and the first extra one left Liverpool for that purpose last Saturday.

Caleb Cushing has decided to accept the Spanish Mission.

Fires in Chicago on Tuesday including the burning of the Union Central Depot involved a loss of \$90,000. At one time apprehensions for the safety of the city were entertained.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ has bequeathed his library to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, except such books as his son Alex. Agassiz may choose to keep for himself but is to return them to the Museum when he has no further use for them.

The bulk of a burning and abandoned vessel, named the "Willie Cox" was passed in mid ocean. The "Willie Cox" sailed from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

NEW YORK, Jan. 26, P. M.—Gold 111½. Stg. Exchange \$4.84½, to \$4.88. Money 5 per cent.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

ENGLAND.—Parliament dissolved. —From a despatch on Saturday last we learned that the Imperial Parliament had been dissolved by Royal Decree. The Premier Mr. Gladstone has issued an address to his constituents at Greenwich, asking for a re-election, and announcing that the Queen had been pleased to accept the advice of Her Ministers to dissolve the present Parliament immediately, and to summon a new one to meet on the 5th March, 1874.

In his address Mr. Gladstone gives as his reason for this measure, that since the defeat of the Government upon the Irish Higher Education Question by the concurrent efforts of the leader of the Opposition and the Catholic Prelacy in Ireland, Government has not been possessed of sufficient authority to carry out great legislative measures. Its experience during the recess of Parliament has not indicated that any improvement in its position was probable, the chief of the Opposition having refused to accept office on the defeat of the Government, and the Cabinet feeling that they have not the support which every Ministry ought to enjoy.

An appeal to the people is the proper remedy for such a state of things. The advantage of a dissolution at the present moment is that the estimates are so far advanced that the Government is able to promise a surplus of 5,000,000 pounds sterling, with which it intends to abolish the income tax to relieve local taxation.

Among matters likely to come before Parliament are the readjustment of the Education Act, improvement of the Local Government, and of land, game and liquor laws. The address promises large measure of relief from duties on articles entering into general consumption, and expresses a hope for the speedy assimilation of the country with the borough franchise.

On Thursday last a deputation of working men headed by Joseph Arb, waited on Mr. Gladstone, and urged the propriety of extending the elective franchise to the agricultural laborers. Mr. Gladstone expressed himself in favor of the object, but advised them to be patient, and pointed out the magnitude and weightiness of the measure and the brief duration of the present Parliament.

The address of Gladstone, announcing the dissolution of Parliament, flattens the market for English securities.

On Friday last flags were displayed from public and private buildings in honor of the Marriage of Duke of Edinburgh.

Wind-or Castle, Sandringham, and other buildings occupied by the Royal Family were profusely decorated with bunting. Throughout the entire country, bells were ringing in honor of the nuptials.

It is rumored that the King of the Asiatians has sent an embassy to Gen. Wolsey, suing for peace and offering indemnity.

A large Cotton Factory in Glasgow, was burned on Thursday night; loss £150,000. Four thousand operatives are thrown out of employment.

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