

# The Christian Messenger.

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WHOLE SERIES.  
Vol. XLII., No. 31.

## Poetry.

### Wanted.

WANTED.—Men of fire!  
Stirred by deepest thought;  
Burning with desire;  
Shrinking back from naught;  
Pain, or loss, or shaming;  
Labours, peril, sword,  
If that, Christ proclaiming,  
Trophies crown their Lord.

WANTED.—Men of feeling!  
Tender, loving, true;  
O'er whose hearts, soft-stealing,  
Spreads the eternal dew;  
With the mourners weeping;  
Prompt at joyous call;  
Holy watchers keeping  
Outlook meet, for all.

WANTED.—Men of Power!  
Strong in God's own might;  
While Salvation's hour  
Lengthens out its light,  
Through all lands, the story  
Of our King to bear;  
And for Him in glory,  
Earth's high throne prepare.

Wanted,—but they are not:  
Who shall bring them forth?  
Church of Jesus, spare not  
Of thy best the worth;  
Where the heathen perish,  
Speed them on their way;  
He, Who claims—will cherish;  
He, Who takes—repay.

J. TRITTON.

## Religious.

### Growth in Grace.

THE CIRCULAR LETTER OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION TO THE CHURCHES OF WHICH IT IS COMPOSED.

Published by Special Request.

Dear Brethren,—

"The grace of God that bringeth salvation to all men has appeared." And "we are saved by grace, through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God." Having been saved by grace we are commanded to "grow in grace," and it must be pleasing to our Father—"the God of all grace" to see in us unmistakable evidence of our obedience to this command in the continuous development of all our Christian graces. And as this is pleasing to God, so it is to all whom He has called and sent to be sowers of the "good seed" and reapers in the great harvest.

The farmer toils in the proper season to prepare his soil for the seed. In full expectation of the promised harvest, he scatters his seed broadcast over the field. When the time has arrived for the blade to appear, that farmer is seen in the early morn carefully scanning his field to see the fruit of his labor. How disheartening when day after day he surveys that field only to be each day disappointed. Much more grievous is the disappointment of the laborer in the spiritual field, who toils hard and long, in anxiety sowing the good seed of the kingdom, but who, in many cases sees not even the blade to encourage him to hope that there will be fruit in the great harvest. The minister has no greater joy than to see his children walking in the truth.

In the natural world growth is produced by the proper use of means under the blessing of God. It would be folly for any one to expect that the seed sown, however good, would bring forth, unless the soil was first prepared and the field afterwards carefully protected from the weeds that choke and the beasts that destroy.

The proper use of the proper means is equally essential to growth in grace. We may here notice some of the means of growth that God has placed within our reach, a proper use of which will as surely, under the blessing of God, produce Christian growth, as will the cultivation and care of the soil—under the summer sun and shower—bring forth the harvest, from the seed sown.

1. The first means of growth to be noticed is

### A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE WORD OF GOD.

We are commanded as new-born babes to desire the sincere milk of the word, that we may grow thereby. Whatever be our age at conversion, whether six, sixteen, or sixty we are but babes, just beginning to live. Babes are very delicate and need proper food. God has provided such food in the milk from the mother's breast, and so soon as the mother finds that the babe loses its relish for that food she becomes alarmed as to the consequences, and an effort must be made to quicken the appetite for the food by which health can be maintained and growth produced. The seed that germinates in the heart, making the sinner a saint is the word of God, (Luke viii. 11) The food by which the convert grows is the word of God, (1 Peter ii. 2.) The light by which converts walk is the word of God, (Psalm cix. 105.) The means by which the convert is sanctified is the Word of God, (John xvii. 17.) And the means by which the convert knows the temptations of Satan is the Word of God. When our blessed Saviour was tempted by him to command the stones to be made bread; to bow down and worship him; and to cast himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, in every case our Lord met the arch-tempter by the Word of God. "It is written" (Matt. iv. 1-11.)

When the convert is unacquainted with the Word he often mistakes the temptations of Satan, who some times comes as an angel of light, for the impressions of God upon his mind. Every new thought should, before action, be brought to the test-stone—the Word of God, for the "entrance of the Word gives light." In short the Word of God is to the voyager over the sea of life, at once a compass, the chart, the light-house and the food. Be not of those who simply taste of the good Word of life; but "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly," and always "desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby."

2. A second means that is essential to growth in grace and always within reach of every one, but, alas, too often neglected is

### PRAYER.

The apostle, knowing the value of this means, earnestly advises all Christians to come boldly to a throne of mercy and find grace to help in time of need. It is the universal testimony of all backsliders from God that their back-sliding began in the closet. The young convert runs well for a season. At morning, noon, and night, his communion with God in secret is undisturbed, he is growing in grace. He sleeps a little later than usual one morning and anxious to get to his work without delay, he thinks he has no time for his accustomed morning devotions and he who goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, strengthens the thought and suggests that, instead of kneeling by his bedside as usual he can breathe a prayer, as he goes to his occupation, that will be just as acceptable with God. The young convert acts upon the suggestion, and that moment has been to him the beginning of sorrow. From that point his heart-wandering began and his growth in grace ceased. The result in every case, has been leanness and barrenness, and in many cases shipwreck. We do not by this mean to say that God does not notice the breathed desire regardless of the posture of the body, for

"To Him there's music in a groan,  
And beauty in a tear."

And the prayer of Nehemiah, while standing in the presence of the king, though unnoticed by human eye and unheard by human ear attracted the eye that sees all our desires and reached the ear that hears the sigh of the needy. But we do maintain that in order to growth in grace our regular, stated, and undisturbed seasons of communion with God in secret must be maintained.

Prayer at the family altar, in the prayer-meeting, or in the pulpit is not, and will not be accepted as a substitute for closet devotions. We would

not dictate as to the frequency of these seasons, or the time to be occupied in them. Perhaps we had better learn the lesson from our children who come to us as often as they want anything, and continue pleading until we turn them away, either by granting, or positively refusing, their request. Don't be afraid, dear brethren often to enter into thy closet, shut to thy door, and pray to thy Father who sees in secret and He shall reward thee openly.

We have a three fold enemy to contend with—the world, the devil, and the flesh. In our own strength we cannot make successful warfare.—Either one of the three is more than a match for our unaided weakness. The three combined will certainly overcome us unless we take unto us the whole armor of God and go forth to meet our common foe in the strength of God's grace. Thus standing fast and fighting valiantly we shall conquer and conquering we shall grow for each victory gives additional strength for the contest.

"Take the name of Jesus with you  
As a shield from every snare  
When temptations round you gather  
Breathe His holy name in prayer."

3. Another important means of growth to which we want to call your attention, equally essential as either of the above, is

### CHRISTIAN WORK.

To every convert at the hour of his conversion, the injunction comes, "Go work to-day in my vineyard." It is misleading to suppose that the only object of this immediate entering upon Christian work that Christ enjoins upon His saved ones is the salvation of others. Although He does condescend to use the saved as instruments of salvation to the lost, He does it not so much, we believe, because other means could not be employed for that purpose as because of the reflex influence of such work upon those on whom it is enjoined. Exercise is essential to health. Let the healthiest and most robust who may read this take to his easy-chair and fold his arms in idleness, and the result will soon be seen in the absence of appetite for food, the pale face, the hollow cheek, the sunken eye. Let such a one consult his physician and if his physician be worthy of the name he will place a back-saw in his hands and introduce him to a pile of cord-wood as the best remedy for his disease—he was dying for want of work. Spiritually considered the same rule holds good. Here is a young man who tells a glowing experience, makes a brilliant profession, but his voice is seldom or never afterwards heard in the prayer-meeting, his feet are not found in the path of Christian labor, his hands are hanging idly by his side. Nothing to do? Nay, nay, but no desire to do it. Souls are perishing on every hand and there is suitable labor for every kind of talent.

"If you cannot speak like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all."

We have said that the young man in question has made a brilliant profession, but his profession has been like the burning of the birch wood that a neighbor sold to Dr. Backus, a match, a blaze, a dead and worthless stick; such was its quality that the Dr. said that twenty cords of it would not smother the flames of perdition. Oh how many such worthless sticks we have in our churches, a spark, a flicker, and then they are gone; clogs upon the wheels of our chariot when they might, with their shoulder to the wheel, be pressing forward; dwarfs in Zion when they might be strong, healthy men and women.

Let us not be satisfied, dear brethren, with a name to live when we are dead. Let us aim at something more worthy of the dignity and destiny of our immortal nature than to drag out a mere existence when we might be full of vitality. Let us not be content with enough of the spirit and power of religion to deliver us from hell, but rather seek far an abundant entrance into heaven. Be it ours so to live and

labor as that we shall all hear from our divine Leader "Well done good and faithful servant enter into the joy of thy Lord," and then "we shall serve Him both day and night in His temple."

It was an admirable observation of Martin Luther with which he consoled his friends at a crisis of his history when it appeared probable that he should be killed. "God requires servants in heaven as well as on earth," and it would be well if each Christian would endeavour to identify his own history and prospects with the fact, that the transit from earth to heaven is but a change of residence, that the service remains the same, "they shall serve Him day and night in His temple." Brethren we look not for a place of luxurious repose—we look for an abode where perfect enjoyment, and constant development shall be associated with incessant, unwearied, and delightful activity in the service and for the honor of Him who bought us with his blood. The revelation of God clearly makes known to us that man will be consecrated unweariedly, and as a source of intense felicity to the service and glory of God; and we should come to the practical conclusion that as heaven shall be, so we ought to endeavour to make earth now, by fully dedicating to the service of God all our powers of body and mind and thus our growth in grace will be manifested in the uniform development of all our faculties, and fully experienced in our better appreciation of the glory of the great hereafter. In conclusion, dear brethren, let us press upon you the necessity of learning God's will, seeking God's grace, and doing God's work as the best means of growing in God's favour.

## Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger  
United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 16, 1878.

Of the recent engagement between General Howard and the Indians, General Sherman expresses the opinion that it is but the prelude to several other battles of a similar character after which the red men will scatter, and, forming small roving bands, can be easily captured by troops or overpowered by settlers. He thinks the outbreak will terminate as usual, by the taking of many Indian prisoners, a result undoubtedly desired by many of the savages, since that event will secure them comfortable food, shelter and care from the Government.

General Sherman would not be taken by sight for the great soldier he is. Small, spare and wizened, he has more the look of a dried-up old bachelor than of the General of the United States Army and head of a family. In winter he is recognizable by the slouched hat and large cloak he invariably wears.

A more quiet city than the Capital is now cannot be found. The drone of the hot season is evident. The asphaltum pavement, so cool in early autumn and so clear in winter, fairly reeks and steams and grows soft these dreadful days and emits an odor as if being melted by fire. Nobody ventures out without an umbrella, and many wear dampened sponges in their hat crowns. Sun-strokes occasionally occur though they are far less frequent than one might expect in a climate like this.

Representative Springer is authority for the statement that the Potter investigation will have finished its labors in Washington by next week. The Committee will then transfer their work to Louisiana where testimony will be taken.

Speaker Randall is said to have very ambitious schemes for himself for 1880. Grant, Hayes, Butler, Kearney, Thurman, Tilden, Randall. Not a very formidable list of Presidential aspirants after all, though quite a mixed one.

Drunkenness was so prevalent among the Honorable members during the last night of the lately adjourned Congress that Jas. H. Rainey, S. C. (colored) was said to be the only member of the Committee on Enrolled Bills present

who was in a condition to know whether or not the bills were properly enrolled. He was at his post all night, and when, 15 minutes before the hour set for adjournment he rushed into the Hall of the House with the enrolled Sunday Civil Appropriation Bill, which had been so repeatedly and extensively corrected and patched up, and gave it to Speaker Randall, the latter grasped the black hand and shook it with a warmth that showed no thought of the "color line," and the House showed its appreciation of Rainey's efforts by loud applause.

More work was accomplished during the last minute of the session than in any other so short a time on record. The bill to provide a Commission to ascertain the cost of the removal of the Naval Observatory, and two others were signed, sent to the President (waiting in his room in the capital) examined, approved, signed and returned by him, the three Commissioners on the Observatory site nominated, the Senate went into Executive session, confirmed the nominations, the doors were again opened. President Ferry made his closing speech and declared the 2nd session of the 45th Congress adjourned sine die, all in 60 seconds of time.

Among the last acts of the House was a resolution asserting its confidence in Ex-Door-keepers Polk's personal and political integrity, and awarding him full pay for the expenses incurred by him in defending the charges upon which he was investigated.

MERRILL.

For the Christian Messenger,  
Letter from Paris.

HOTEL DU LOUVRE, PARIS,  
July 6, 1878.

The Exhibition appears to look more lovely every day; it is losing its very new look; the alleys are free from pebbles of the type that must have slain Goliath; there are seats everywhere, and the restaurants are springing up like mushrooms. Since its recent opening, the pavilion devoted to the exhibits of the minister of Public Instruction is much visited; the solar reflector is the object of special curiosity; it can cook a chop and be arranged to make pot-a-feu. While on educational matters, let the visitor not neglect the exhibits of Russia in this respect. For the model of a class, there is a seat with a movable back, which permits the pupil to "sketch himself," without disturbing his work, or that quietness, so difficult to obtain in childhood. There is also a small instrument which demonstrates if substances be permeable or impermeable to air—an Indian rubber tube, with the end placed against a morsel of brick, concrete or wood grain ways; all is in a glass of water; the latter will become agitated, when the air slightly blown passes through the resisting medium. A. M. Nedats of Finland, explains by a series of pictorial tables, the work of digestion by the stomach; underdone beef-steaks and under cooked eggs, according to him ought to be avoided. Pounded raw meat, at present so much in request makes frightful ravages with the stomach, yet he recommends that as a "precaution against cholera." The effects of vodka the popular brandy, produces the same burning effects on the stomach, as the air of the mines, yet prisoners are condemned to the silver and mercury mines of Siberia though the pain of death be abolished. The vodka is the most fruitful source of indirect revenue on a par in this respect with tobacco in France. There are very interesting card board anatomical models, of animals, insects &c. Thus an infant can take asunder, and repiece, the body and internal organs, of a bee, a flea, a beetle, &c. Similarly with the human head; the model opens in two; the jaw bone can be taken asunder, the teeth "extracted," their system of connecting nerves examined. There are wax preparations to illustrate the development of a frog, and the transformation of a silk worm. The botanical plates are superb and have been purchased by