

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. Incidents of Ministerial Life.

A TALE AND SOMETHING MORE.

CHAPTER VI.

We cannot expect plants to leaf out into blossom and fruit without sunshine; and human beings, in this respect, are like plants.

Mr. Alethes after a while enjoyed more sunshine amongst his fellow students than he had given them credit for. The trouble was, in part, he had been a little exacting in the matter, and did not make the greatest use of that excellent maxim, "Do unto others as you would have others do to you."

(To be continued.)

For the Christian Messenger. God and Natural Law.

He was before his works of old.—Proverbs viii. 22, 23.

When he finally graduated, his whole educational course was pronounced a remarkable success; and whatever deficiencies remained could not be attributed to the want of assiduity.

Judging from the unreasonable demands sometimes made on a minister, it would be impossible exactly to define his character, if he were so constituted as to meet those demands.

Some take pride in a pastor who has had the advantages of the Theological School; others, of the same church, with a far greater pride, assume to pour contempt on your college men.

Many are profoundly ignorant of the damage they are capable of doing to the dispositions of their pastors, and to the ministry at large.

Every man with good feeling and respectability will see that his minister be not obliged to do things beneath the dignity of his position.

God only is eternal, all other things and beings had a beginning. This doctrine is plainly asserted in the word of God.

Creation then being finite all her Laws that regulate the material creations of God must be finite also, for we do not need infinite Laws to regulate finite creations.

God is infinitely superior to all the worlds and Laws and beings he has ever will create. For it is certain God could by the breath of his mouth annihilate the whole universe he has created.

Again it is a departure from all nomenclature in philosophy, to say that the "Natural Laws are nothing."

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is formed into a marvelous system, by the Law of Cohesion. Now unless the eternity of matter as proved, it will be impossible to prove the eternity of natural laws, because we cannot conceive the Laws to exist without the existence of the matter.

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same. If the Natural Laws are the product of His power, and every one who believes that God created all things and beings, these Laws, things, and beings, from the very nature of their existence, are finite, limited, changeable, relative, subordinate.

I would also notice here, that the passage quoted from the 139th Psalm, is inapplicable. It applies to the omnipresence of God, and to the Natural Laws.

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Provings.—Where, in this lesson, do we find—1. That God is pleased with our desire to do a service for him, even when he may hold us back from doing it?

The ark, when brought to Jerusalem, was set in its place "in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it" (vi. 17).

Notes.—Vs. 1-3.—Sat in his house. The palace of cedar of v. 11, which the carpenters and masons, sent by Hiram, had built for him.

Nathan saw that the desire of David was commendable, and God-honoring, and at once said: Go, do. He had not inquired of the Lord, but spoke from general principles.

Why did God refuse this service from David? It may be that David's idea of God's grace was defective.

Why did God refuse this service from David? It may be that David's idea of God's grace was defective. The Lord had done great things for him, and he may have thought to return the favor.

The beforetime refers to the history of Israel in Egypt before coming into Canaan. And as since, refers to their history after entering Canaan.

SUGGESTED LESSONS.

- 1. One that loves God will be solicitous about his house. He will make sacrifices toward building a suitable house of worship. 2. Mistaken zeal is far better than spiritual apathy.

The Lesson for the little Ones.

One day, as David was sitting in his beautiful palace, he told Nathan, the prophet, that he felt ashamed to live in a fine house, while the ark of God was placed under curtains.

David went again for the ark, and this time everything was carefully done according to the word of the Lord.

Youths' Department.

Original and Selected. Bible Enigma.

- Find answers to the following and the initials will give the name of a party among the Jews who were bitterly opposed to Jesus; and the initials will show the name of another party who were also opposed to Christ and hostile to the other party.

Answer to Bible Enigma.

- 1. J oshua a.....Joshua i. 1. 2. O re b.....Judges vii. 25. 3. N som i.....Ruth i. 29.