

Recovery from Sickness.

How pleasant after days of pain, And night retreating slow, To feel the genial air again...

With lovelier tints each little flower That stars the hedge is clad, And every bird has sweeter power...

Joy comes in trances like the wind, And in the after-calm, The heart interprets to the mind...

More fervent thoughts the spirit thrills, When words are sealed or slow; The current of its bliss is still...

Oh, if to sick and weary hearts Such joy on earth be given, What is it when the saint departs...

Influence of a Village Carpenter.

BY A CANADIAN MERCHANT.

Having tarried a few days in a beautiful village in the West, I embarked in a vessel which was crossing one of the great lakes...

About nine o'clock, as the sails were hoisted, another passenger came on board. When we had cleared the harbour he entered the cabin...

Before we reached the wharf the captain came forward, and with much feeling, bade him farewell...

"I have no objection," said he, "if the passengers have not; but I shan't attend." At an early hour the passengers were invited into the cabin...

As soon as he rose from prayer, a gentleman, whose head was whitening for the grave, said, "Sir, I should like to converse with you."

"Sir," said the young man, "I respect age, and will listen to you; and as you proceed, may, perhaps, ask a few questions; but I cannot debate, I can only say, that I must love Jesus Christ."

"Will you, then, tell us how sinners can be saved in some other way, and God's law be honoured?" We waited in vain for a reply...

"But, said he at length, "though intoxication on occasions is a dense amount of crime and misery in our world, I recollect one instance of murder with which it had no connexion."

"In a populous city of the East, was a man who seemed to live only for the good of others. He daily exhibited the most perfect benevolence towards his fellow-men..."

"I can," answered the hardy tar, "and will not be outdone, my word for it." "Well, when a sailor passes his word he ought to be believed."

Others feared that his religious views, connected with his consistent life, would expose their hypocrisy. At length a mock trial was held by an infuriated mob...

"It was in the city of Jerusalem, and the person was no other than the LORD JESUS CHRIST. By his enemies he was hung upon the cross, and for us, guilty sinners, he died."

"In the morning the stranger was not forgotten; and he evidently did not forget that there were immortal souls around him..."

"The young man raised his eyes to heaven as if imploring the Spirit's influences; and then, briefly explaining the nature and reasonableness of repentance and faith..."

"The old man saw the plan of redemption so clearly, that he burst into tears, and exclaimed, 'Oh, my soul, my soul! How have I sinned against God!'"

"But Jesus died to save sinners," replied the young man; "will you, my friend, give Him your heart?" "O yes, yes! if I had a thousand hearts..."

"The young man turned away and wept. For some minutes silence was broken only by the deep sighs of the aged penitent. There was something, in an hour like this, awfully solemn."

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"And then again he wept, and said, 'Yes, O Jesus, precious Saviour!'" The time had come for our young friend to leave us...

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"He would not despise any measure of success, but he thought we should rather consider what we have not done. The earth might be traversed, and her jewels, pearls and diamonds might be collected, and while look-

ing at that radiance, we dare not take that dazzling exhibition as a sample of the earth. Many sterile plains and desolate regions are everywhere found, with barrenness all around. So we way look upon the world lying in sin."

"He asked with great point about the sacrifice Christian men make. Who has left his palace for a plainer house? Who sent his expensive furniture to auction to prevent the reflection of his contributions? Nay, the beginning of their retrenchment had been in what they had given to the treasury of the Lord."

"He warned the church to take care how she yields to a spirit of worldliness. That her avowed zeal for orthodoxy would be no compensation for the want of Christ's self-sacrificing and self-denying zeal. He feared there would be a great sweeping, when Christ would come to accomplish his promises."

"He acknowledged that he had tried to be a Universalist; and, though he could not rest in that belief, he never, until the previous evening, saw his lost condition. 'And now,' said he, 'I want you to tell me what I shall do.'"

"The young man raised his eyes to heaven as if imploring the Spirit's influences; and then, briefly explaining the nature and reasonableness of repentance and faith, accompanied by a few striking illustrations in proof of the justice of God in condemning, and his mercy in pardoning sinners."

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Bible Examples—Domestic Worship.

The Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, wherever, in their pilgrimages, they fixed on a place of residence, erected an altar to God for family devotion, and called on the name of the Lord.

Joshua resolved that, as for him and his family, they would serve the Lord, that is, worshiping him in the house. He sent for his sons, and said, 'Ye know that the Lord is God, and that he has chosen us to be his people, and that he has put us above all the nations of the earth.'

Cornelius, the centurion, it is said "feared God with all his house," meaning, worshipped him with his family.

The Apostle speaks, in his epistles, of churches in private houses. By this phrase, he means religious families, or families where religious services were observed.

In the Lord's Prayer we have a command for family devotion. "After this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father who art in Heaven." The form of prayer is plural, and, it must therefore, mean social prayer, and, it social, then family prayer, for a family is the most proper society to engage in this devotion.

Paul, in his epistle to the Colossians, having pointed out the duties of husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants, adds, 'Continue in prayer, and watch the same with thanksgiving.' The subject upon which he was speaking, and the manner of his speaking, lead us to conclude he meant family prayer.

In his epistle to the Ephesians, he enjoins it as a duty, to "pray always with all prayer," that is, to offer prayer of every kind, and in form, and at every proper season. Family prayer must, therefore, be included in this injunction.

The apostle Peter exhorts husbands and wives to live together in the discharge of the duties of conjugal affection and Christian obedience, that "their prayers be not hindered;" that nothing may occur to indispose them to social or family devotion.

PARTICULAR PROVIDENCE.—Hugh Miller remarks that there was never, perhaps, a time in which the doctrine of a particular Providence was more questioned and doubted than in the present; and yet the scepticism which obtains regarding it, seems to be very much a modernism of a recent date, and among the easy classes, in a quiet age, and among the thoughtful, in a stormy one.

When danger comes to touch it, it will spring up in its old proportions; nay, so indigenous is it to the human heart, that if it will not take its cultivated form as a belief in Providence, if it will, to a certainty, take to its wild form as a belief in Fate or Destiny. Of a doctrine so fundamentally important that there can be no religion without it, God himself seems to have taken care when he moulded the human heart.

THE WESLEYAN BODY.—The total number of members of the Wesleyan body in connection with the British connexion is said to be 2355,678. This includes 76,071 at missionary stations abroad. The return shows a decrease of 2346 on the preceding year.

A GOOD IDEA.—The Protestant Bible Society of Paris has declared its intention to present hereafter every newly married couple of the Protestant churches of France with a Bible.

THE MORMONITES.—In various parts of South Wales the emissaries of the Mormonites are most active in propagating and spreading the doctrines of the latter Day Saints, and among the labouring population they have been indefatigable in urging the odious practice of polygamy. Among the miners and colliers of the iron and coal districts of South Wales the tenets of this sect find peculiar favour.