

Thy death, that but now was the theme  
Of mine anguish, my tears, my despair,  
To such horrors as these doth but seem  
—A subject for tenderest prayer.  
Thou art gone;—thou art risen on high—  
To the throne of thy Father thou'rt sped;  
Thou'rt above—wherefore then should I sigh?  
Would to God I were sure thou wert dead.

That the danger was not merely imaginary was demonstrated by several startling cases, where trance was mistaken for death; and as those persons were not rarely rescued, and the able attendants were permitted to exercise a discretionary power, here is only too much lamentable cause to fear that in some instances the awakening may have come too late.

One instance of escape was afforded by an officer who was subsequently one of the greatest of our dramatic corp—Lieutenant Jordo of the 26th—who suffered from the epidemic fever in its worst form, and who being by his medical adviser reported 'dying,' was accordingly placed on the list for burial, and the watching of a faithful servant was immediately interrupted by the entrance of the dead bearers, who insisted upon carrying off what they termed the corpse.

In vain the domestic protested that his master was only in 'a faint.' The doctors had pronounced his condition to be hopeless,—his case was one of those that 'always terminate on the ninth day;' the ninth day had arrived, the lieutenant offered no resistance, and therefore dead they insisted he must be, and buried he should be they were determined.

But determination, though a good thing in itself, is not half so powerful as when backed by attachment. Consequently, after a fruitless war of words, the servant adopted a more striking method of argument, and, in despite of a few knock down hits, had nearly succeeded in ejecting his antagonists, when his fidelity was rewarded by the awakening of his master, whom, to his great joy, he suddenly perceived a silent but deeply interested spectator of the affray.

A loud 'Hurrah for the master, and long life to him!' closed the contention, and completed the expulsion of the intruders. And the invalid's life was spared to rejoice the poor fellow with many proofs of his gratitude, and to become one of the most joyous and popular persons in the voteries of the garrison, among whom he used to relate the particulars of his escape with that inimitable unctious which so pre-eminently characterized his amusing narratives.

For a similar rescue Delorme was likewise indebted to the pertinacity of his servant, who upon a like visit, locked his master's chamber-door, and resolutely refused to find the key. I afterwards proved that the mission bearers went to the adjoining quarters. As however, the captain was at the time suffering from collapse, and too feeble to speak or move, he would undoubtedly have been carried off by the half drunken and wholly callous persons whose pressing duties rendered them far from particular in their examinations.

Another and still more awful case was that of a medical officer, who since that period is reported to have amassed a considerable fortune by means of the very remarkable reputation that he has established for himself.

She was the mother of a large family nearly all of whom participated in the one calamity she was guarded with the most solicitous care by the skill of her husband, and the effect of her daughter, a girl of unshrinking courage and superior intellect, yet, despite all their most strenuous exertions, she sank under the disease, and her sorrowing husband pronounced her—dead!

By extraordinary influence the lapse of three hours was granted between death and burial—and the decencies of the grave permitted; the last duties were piously performed for her by sorrowing relations—she was carefully within her coffin, and the mourners were gazing their last, before the final closing of the scene—when the pale form, bursting itself from its dark sleep, and, with fully awakened consciousness, saw and comprehended all. One look of horror rested momentarily on the group that surrounded her,—one fearful shriek rang hollowly thro' the chamber,—and then the living tenant sank down a fitting occupant of the receptacle that enclosed her.

In vain the fondest caresses were breathed upon the pallid lips—in vain was the chill form hurried to a warm couch, and surrounded by all the comforts that inventive love could suggest—that single moment of affright had forever chased the returning spirit, and the yawning grave closed over the victim of expediency.

A catastrophe not less affecting, but from a different cause, than the foregoing, was furnished by the fate of a tenderly attached young couple, who after an engagement protracted by the scruples of friends and other occurrences, had been only a few months married. The husband was a junior officer

on the medical staff, and was known to have set up for himself an antidotal theory, by the rigid observance of which he pretended that all persons might, if they would, escape the infection.

This consisted partly in a course of regimen, but mainly in taking large doses of calomel—a medicine during the attack in such common use, that the doctors were in the habit of carrying their waistcoat pockets filled with pills compounded of it, which they plentifully administered upon the first symptoms of the complaint.

Very early during the season of visitation, Dr Waters was missed from his appointed rounds, but all communication between districts was so difficult and uncertain, that whether he had received orders of removal, or had falsified his own practice by falling a victim to the disease, could only be conjectured, and few found leisure to inquire beyond the welfare of their own hearth.

The residence of the doctor stood apart, and was surrounded by a walled court, which remained jealously closed, his fate, therefore, was not known until the peregrinations of the fumigatory agents after the departure of the plague, revealed, among many other horrible secrets, those which resided in the concealment of his dwelling.

Here the remains of husband and wife were found resting ghastly together, some scattered memoranda, showing that they had both strictly adhered to the doctor's proscription system, but that, so far from acting as a preventive, it had only served to weaken the animal powers, and when they imbibed the infection, rendered the use of those medicines which might have been effective, altogether useless to their debilitated habit.

They had died without seeking help from others, and passed away happily, it is to be hoped, inasmuch as that they were not divided.

Their servant, in whom they appeared to have placed unlimited confidence, was found in the court, also dead; and concealed about his person were all the portable valuables and cash which had belonged to the unfortunate pair; whether he had purloined them for his own use, and was in the act of escaping, when death summoned him to render an account of his stewardship, or that he had thus secreted them in obedience to his dying master, who might possibly have delegated to him the task of transmitting the property to his distant friends, was a mystery that will only be known when master and man shall appear before the tribunal of Immortal Justice.

I might, however, swell these very imperfect sketches to a volume, and yet leave unmentioned hundreds of the most touching ravages of the monster fiend who depopulated alike the mansion and the hut.

#### INTERESTING ASTRONOMICAL FACTS.

The quantity of solar light received at the planet Uranus is 300 times less than that of the earth.

To an inhabitant of Mercury the sun appears seven times larger than to us.

If the degree of heat upon the different planets is in proportion to their distance from the sun, the average temperature of Mercury will be 333 degrees, or 131 degrees below the freezing point.

Mercury's density is equal to that of lead, being the densest planet in the system. Saturn the rarest, has very nearly the density of cork.

I would take Uranus nearly fifteen years to fall to the sun, if left to the force of gravity alone.

A locomotive moving without intermission, at the rate of 20 miles per hour, would be 524 years in traversing the distance between our earth and the sun.

A body that weighs one pound upon the earth, would weigh twenty seven and a half pounds if transported to the sun, and an ordinary sized man would there weigh 4000 pounds.

Had a steam carriage set out from the earth at its creation, moving at the rate of 20 miles per hour, it would still require 337 years to reach the orbit of Uranus. Were the sun's centre placed over the earth, it would entirely fill the Moon's orbit, and extend 200,000 miles beyond it. The sun is 545 times larger than all the planetary bodies of the solar system, taken together.

The New York Tribune says, 'the cost of the Paper making establishments in the United States will amount to about \$16,000,000. Annual product, \$15,000,000; giving employment to fifty thousand men, women and children. From four to five millions of dollars value of worthless American rags are annually consumed. We say worthless because they would be without value if the papermills were destroyed. For ten or fifteen years past, the cost of manufacturing has been regularly diminishing every year by the acquired skill that has

been obtained; the reduction of prices in the aggregate within that time, has been on some kinds fifty per cent; the next ten years will probably be nearly as much more.

From the Halifax Guardian.

#### THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF CHRISTIANITY ON THE TEMPORAL INTERESTS OF MANKIND—A PROOF OF ITS HEAVENLY ORIGIN.

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Continued.

II. Thus then, it is a fact beyond doubt, that Christianity has produced a beneficial influence upon the character and happiness of individuals; and this influence though perceptible in every christian country, is just in proportion to the strength with which christian principles are felt and cherished. From this improvement on individual character, we would naturally expect that an important change should be produced upon the manners, customs, and institutions of public life. For, the general character of any body of men, depends entirely on the character of the individuals who compose that body; and any peculiarity in the general aspect of a particular society, may be traced to the feelings and views entertained by its members. Wherever, therefore, there is a change of principle, a corresponding change must soon take place in the prevailing habits of the society, and in the laws by which it is governed. The prevalence of christianity among the individuals of any nation, will thus have a powerful influence upon the laws and institutions of that nation. It will introduce a temper and spirit, which rulers and men in power will find it their interest and duty to follow out. No doubt partiality for long entertained opinions, dislike to change, and the prevailing corruption of the human mind, may for a time hinder the adoption of salutary laws and useful institutions. Even the best system, and the wisest measures may long meet with opposition from the ignorant prejudices or shortsighted policy of statesmen; but whenever they are rightly viewed, and seen to be beneficial in their tendency, they will not fail to be generally received and cordially embraced. Thus it is with Christianity. Notwithstanding the formidable opponents which it has had to encounter, its effects in softening the rigorous laws, and abolishing the barbarous customs of Pagan nations, have been very remarkable. Wherever its spirit and genius have been understood and felt, we find that a change, radical in its nature and astonishing in its effects, was gradually brought about. *There "old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* In Christian nations, the immoral conduct and odious vices which were openly practised among the ancients, and sometimes formed part of their religious rites, have now the stigma of public abhorrence affixed to them: nor would the man who should attempt to revive such practices escape the censure of the public and the vengeance of the laws.

But we shall pass the consideration of the gross vices which pollute the page of ancient history, and which mark the perpetrators of them to have been scarcely superior to the brutes; and shall direct our attention to the improvement which Christianity has accomplished on the arbitrary laws and inhuman customs which have been found to prevail in Pagan nations. Nor shall we here mention the savage and brutal practices of those nations, where the power of the despot was wielded without mercy and without control, and where thousands and tens of thousands of our race were often massacred on the most trifling grounds. We shall not mention the practices of those less enlightened states, whose cruel laws, sanctioned and permitted such deeds of atrocity, as appear scarcely compatible with the nature of human beings. But we shall direct our attention to one or two of the distinguishing features of the much celebrated states of Greece and Rome.

From the nature of our early education, we are accustomed to look back upon those nations with wonder and admiration. The feelings of our boyish years, we can recollect, were strongly excited, by reading of the wars, and battles, and splendid achievements of the "noble and high spirited Greeks and Romans," as we then thought them. Our understandings were dazzled by the great improvements which they had made in the arts and sciences; by their wonderful genius, their splendid talents, their refined taste. We accustomed ourselves to look upon them as beings of a superior order. We contemplated them as we would a bright meteor in a dark sky, which enlightens the surrounding gloom, and outshines every lesser luminary by the intensity of its blaze. The effects of these early impressions, are to give us erroneous ideas of the character of these nations, and to bias our minds strongly in their favour. But when we strip them of their ideal beauties and their false grandeur, and view them in their true light, we are surprised to find very few of those noble qualities which from our early predilections we are apt to ascribe to them. The political constitution of these much admired states will be found, when rightly considered, to have been marked by a restless insatiable ambition; by the blackest injustice, the most outrageous cruelty, and the foulest crimes that ever disgraced human nature. Their

much boasted freedom did not extend beyond the walls of their cities: every where else, I had almost said, they were the worst of tyrants. Among the small number of those who were called citizens, there were continual scenes of triumph and bloodshed. In Rome particularly the generality of the people were too proud to work peaceably for their livelihood, and disdained to support themselves by honest industry. Their principal means of subsistence were the receiving of bribes, and the plunder of the wealthier citizens. Compare this with the present state of almost any Christian nation, and say how great and beneficial has been the change! Several crimes which were common among Pagan nations, even the most civilized, and were tolerated by their laws, are either unknown or rare among Christians, and when they are committed and discovered, never fail to excite horror, and to consign the perpetrators of them to just punishment and indelible ignominy. Of this kind are the exposure of infants, the cruel spectacles of gladiators at Roman festivals and funerals, and other enormities which the professors of the gospel ought not even to name.

If we contrast the rapacious cruelty, and the dire vengeance which characterize the contests of Pagan nations, with the comparative mildness and courtesy which are observed in the wars carried on between Christian states, we shall see in a strong light, the highly beneficial effects of our holy religion. To illustrate this remark, we need not go to the ignorant and uncultivated part of mankind; but we have merely to cast our eyes over the history of the enlightened states of Greece and Rome. And, here, our preconceived notions of their magnanimity and high exploits, tend to blind our understandings as to the real state of matters. In contemplating their conquests we think not of the manner in which they were achieved; and amid the splendour of victory we forget the manner in which it was obtained. Their chief motives to engage in war, were not to defend the innocent or rescue the oppressed, but to gratify, at the expense of human blood, their predominant passions for gain and power. To accomplish these ends, the most sacred rights of individuals and nations were trampled upon: no means however unjustifiable did they scruple to employ; wherever they went their career was marked by bloodshed, devastation and death.—And if such was their cold blooded policy, what must have been their conduct when influenced by rage and heated by passion. Every species of warfare tends to call evil propensities into exercise, but what must be their effects on men who were accustomed to indulge them to excess, and who believed it to be proper, *jay meritorious*, to give the fullest scope to their thirst for revenge! Hear the language of Thucydides:—"To glut our souls with the cruellest vengeance upon our enemies is perfectly lawful: it is an appetite implanted in us by nature, and is the most exquisite pleasure which the human mind can enjoy!"—The natural consequences of such sentiments, were the most wanton cruelty and blood thirsty barbarity. And accordingly we find that scenes were exhibited in the battles of these nations, from which every Christian country would revolt with horror! [To be Continued.]

#### ORIGINAL.

Mr Pierce,

I observed in your paper a short time since, a communication complaining of the defective arrangements made by the Postman Kelly, as regards the accommodation he is to this place during the opening and closing of the river; but I should like to know what accommodation or advantage he is to Chatham at any time. He receives a very large sum from the Province and Post Office Department, of which we pay our full proportion, and the accommodation we receive is but trifling. If any person in this town wishes to go to Fredericton with him, he must find a conveyance to Newcastle, although Kelly advertises to take passengers from Chatham. I believe it is well known that he has not for a long time been here on the days of starting, or made any arrangement for conveying his Passengers, packages, or any thing except the mail, from Chatham; if he has, I for one would like to know what the arrangements are, that the public may judge if they have been accommodated as they should be. I have been asked a number of times by strangers wishing to go with him, what his arrangements are, and could not give a satisfactory reply, and advised them to find their way to Newcastle as well as they could. Then as regards packages coming by him from Fredericton and other places, they have been known for some time past, to remain at Newcastle until the owner by chance hears of them, and sends for them.

I do hope the Commissioners will look into the business, and enquire of the people of the South West, as well as those of Chatham, if they are accommodated in the manner which they have a right to be, by the present Courier.

A FREEHOLDER.

Chatham, January 15, 1842.