

VARIETIES.

REVIEW.

The Entire Works of the Rev. ROBERT HALL, A. M. With a Brief Memoir of his Life, and a critical Estimate of his Character and Writings. Published under the Superintendence of O. Gregory, L. L. D. Vol. I. Sermons, Charges, and Circular Letters.

THESE WORKS, which are to be comprised in six volumes, the whole of which are expected to appear "before the end of the present year," are now in the course of publication for the benefit of the bereaved family of one of the most extraordinary men whose compositions have diffused a lustre upon the Christian Literature of the present country. The uncommon and powerful character of his eloquence has been duly appreciated by every class of the British Public. Perfectly master of the resources of force and beauty and sweetness to be found in his native tongue, his oratory charmed while it instructed, and warmed while it delighted; he was, in this as well as in a higher sense a burning and a shining light. There is no verbiage in his style; language can command nothing more purely mental; and no man has the whole mind of his readers more at disposal. After a little time they seem to be listening to the utterance of their own thoughts, and contemplating the progress of their own feelings.

The early and lengthened intimacy with Mr. Hall enjoyed by the worthy and talented individual to whom the editing of these volumes has been committed, insures to the Public their appropriate correctness, accompanied with the most interesting and valuable elucidations. The Public having been long in possession of the greater portion of this volume in detached publications enjoying a universally high reputation throughout an extended circulation, we should have little to say beyond the simple announcement of its appearance, but for some interesting editorial notices and the valuable addition of a sermon on the Doctrine of Substitution here first printed from a manuscript in Mr. Hall's own handwriting, two essays in which have been supplied by reports from various friends. This subject, so important in itself, derives an additional interest, in the present instance, from the consideration, that the constitution of Mr. Hall's mind would not allow him to put any value upon a theological sentiment separate from its fitness. His mind revelled with supreme delight in the contemplation of the fitness of things, as they stand exhibited in the facts and doctrines of the inspired volume. This discourse from the text, "For the transgression of my people was he stricken," Isaiah, Liii. 8. assumes the truth of the doctrine of substitution, and in the progress of ten remarks illustrates its fitness in an admirable variety of interesting and impressive particulars. We give a short extract from one of them.

"It were to be desired, though it can scarcely be hoped, that penal laws were so constructed as to impress a persuasion of their justice universally on those who have incurred their penalties. But in the case we are now considering, which is that of an innocent person substituting himself in the place of the guilty, there is a peculiar reason for demanding his express approval of the equity of the original sentence. The enthusiastic admiration which such conduct would naturally excite, the reverence which such a display of unparalleled magnanimity would necessarily attach to its possessor, could not fail to add dignity to his character, and weight to his sentiments; and if, while he submitted to the penalty, he reprobated the severity of the law, the feelings might be divided between esteem for the illustrious sufferer and an aversion to the supposed rigour of the law. Thus the character of the sufferer would operate in a contrary direction to the punishment, and tend to defeat its salutary effects. In the substitution of the Redeemer of mankind were joined the most prompt and voluntary endurance of the penalty, with the most avowed and cordial approbation of the justice of its sanctions. Never had the law such an expounder as in the person of Him who came into the world to exhaust its penalties and endure its curse. He condemned, with the greatest severity, every tenet or practice that went to weaken its obligations, or relax its strictness. Thus the sentiments of supreme devotion and attachment, to which he is entitled, as the Saviour of the world, combine to strengthen our veneration for the law; nor can we pretend to any portion of the *mundus Christi* but just in proportion to our practical regard to the law of God, as holy, just and good.—As the love of Christ is the master principle in the Christian system, so its operation must invariably coincide with the claims of divine authority; because it is the love of a personage who was distinguished from all others by a constant compliance with its dictates, and a most ardent devotion to its honour."

It is in our nature to be gratified by a near approach to the mental operations of such a man as Mr. Hall. Those who have read his Sermon, or rather Essay, on "Modern infidelity," will turn to it again with increased relish after perusing the following "simple narrative" of its history exemplifying in an extraordinary manner the singular character of its author's mind. "He preached it first at Bristol, in October 1800, and again at Cambridge in the month of November. Having yielded to the solicitations of his friends, and consented to its publication, there remained two difficulties; that of writing down the sermon (of which not a single sentence was upon paper), and that of superintending the press.

Dr. Gregory's voluntary offer was ac-

cepted for the latter, but the writing Mr. Hall undertook himself—

"with great reluctance, on account of the severe pain even then (and, indeed, much earlier) he experienced when remaining long in a sitting posture. The work, in consequence, proceeded slowly, and with many interruptions. At first I obtained from him eight pages, and took them to the printer; after a few days, four pages more; then a more violent attack of his distressing pain in the back compelled him to write two or three pages while lying on the floor; and soon afterwards a still more violent paroxysm occasioned a longer suspension of his labour. After an interval of a week, the work was renewed at the joint entreaty of myself and other friends. It was pursued in the same manner, two or three pages being obtained for the printer at one time; a similar portion after a day or two, until, at the end of seven weeks, the task was completed. During the whole time of the composition, thus conducted, Mr. Hall never saw a single page of the printer's work. When I applied for more 'copy,' he asked what it was that he had written last, and then proceeded. Very often, after he had given me a small portion, he would inquire if he had written it nearly in the words which he had employed in delivering the sermon orally. After he had written down the striking apostrophe which occurs at about page 76 of most of the editions—'Eternal God! on what are thine enemies intent! what are those enterprises of guilt and horror, that, for the safety of their performers, require to be enveloped in a darkness which the eye of heaven must not penetrate'—he asked, 'did I say penetrate, Sir, when I preached it? Yes?' 'Do you think, Sir, I may venture to alter it? for no man who considered the force of the English language would use a word of three syllables there, but from absolute necessity.' 'You are doubtless at liberty to alter it, if you think well.' Then he so good, Sir, to take your pencil, and for *penetrate* put *piece*; *piece* is the word, Sir, and the only word to be used there. I have now the evidence of this before me, in the entire manuscript, which I carefully preserve among my richest literary treasures. At the end of seven weeks, Mr. Hall's labour, thus conducted, being, greatly to his delight, brought to a close, I presented him with a complete copy of his printed sermon, not one word of which he had seen in its progress. During this interval, he had preached at least twenty times, had paid his pastoral visits, as usual, had been often in the society of the literary men with whom he then associated, and had, with all his characteristic ardour, carried on, simultaneously, two distinct courses of reading."

THE BILL.

"What will be the Practical Effects of the Reform Bill?" is the title of a well written pamphlet just published, in which the subject is investigated by Montague Gore, Esq., nephew of Col. Gore Langton, M. P. for Somersetshire. The author, in the first place, proves from the laws and constitutions of this country, as established at the revolution of 1688, that the House of Commons should consist of a free representation of the people; and consequently that nomination boroughs are opposed to the Constitution. It follows also that the outcry against the confiscation of property in such boroughs is unjustifiable, on the ground of the illegality of the claim. In reply to the objection of the anti-reformers against any change in the system, that notwithstanding the discordance between the theoretical and practical parts of the constitution, the country has attained a degree of opulence and prosperity unequalled in the history of nations, the author observes, "I should be inclined to attribute the flourishing condition of Great Britain to widely other causes than the influence of those who represent park walls and lone houses:—to the spirit and integrity of her merchants;—to the skill and ingenuity of her mechanics;—to the security of civil liberty, guaranteed by the trial by jury and a free press—should I be disposed to point as the sources of our national grandeur and opulence."

He then proceeds to consider the specific details of the present Bill. "The great objection to it," he says, "appears to be, that the 101. houses is too low a qualification, and that the effect of it will be to throw the representation into the hands of persons without much stake or interest in the country. A brief examination of the returns on the subject of householders will show how fallacious is this idea; and I really think that no impartial man can read the subjoined statement without feeling relieved from any apprehensions as to the effects of this Bill. We have been told again and again that this Bill will make the elections approximate to universal suffrage in large towns, and will throw the representation into the hands of the lowest class of the community. To prove that this will not be the case, I subjoin a return of the population of the undermentioned large towns, taken from the census of 1821, and a return of the number of voters in each of them, according to the 101. qualification;

| Population. | Votes according to the Bill. |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Leeds 83,796 | 6,693 |
| Manchester 130,000 | 12,638 |
| Birmingham 85,416 | 5,632 |
| Bristol 52,889 | 5,500 |
| Glasgow 147,043 | 6,857 |
| Liverpool 118,972 | 14,127 |

Now it is only for any one, who apprehends that this Bill will give too much power to the lower orders, to look at the immense disproportion between the population and the numbers of 101. householders, and he must at once perceive how groundless are his apprehensions.

"But this is not all. One would suppose, from the clamour raised against 101. householders, that the new constituency would be composed of them alone; but two words answer all these objections—the return is to be made by those who occupy houses of the annual value of 101. and upwards. Now it really does seem towards completely answer all the harangues, orations, pamphlets, and addresses of every variety, with which the press of this country has been inundated for the

last half year. The greater part of the argument in these goes on the assumption that the 101. householders will return the new members; and thence they deduce the twofold danger, first, that the representation will be in the hands of those who are not sufficiently independent or intelligent to be allowed the exercise of the elective franchise; and, secondly, that the returns will be effected by one class of the people alone, and thus there will be an end to the beautiful variety which exists in the representation as at present established. I might be satisfied to reply to the first of these arguments by a reference to the table just given, which distinctly shows how far removed the 101. qualification will be from universal suffrage; but I will give a still stronger proof how utterly without foundation these objections are, by demonstrating that in many great towns the 101. householders would form a minority, if compared with the 201. householders and upwards; whilst in none do they form any very alarming majority; and in so doing I conceive that I at the same time reply to the second objection above stated, for the new constituency does not consist of 101. householders only, but of all above that point; of 151., 201., 401., householders, and so forth, to the holders of the highest rated houses; so that the new Members will not be elected by one class, but by every class of citizens, from the highest and most opulent to the 101. householders, who will be the minimum point on the scale.

"In the following table it will be shown, that in the undermentioned towns, those who hold houses of the value of £20 per annum and upwards, will in many instances be a majority of voters.

| | 10. and under 201. | 201. and upwards. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Bristol | 2303 | 2719 |
| Bath | 181 | 1262 |
| Manchester (Township) | 1212 | 2125 |
| Leeds (Town) | 1214 | 1214 |
| Birmingham (Town) | 2996 | 1565 |
| Edinburgh and Suburbs | 4151 | 5261 |

By this statement it appears that in Bristol holders of houses of the value of £20 and upwards would be a majority of 416 over the £10 householders; in Bath, of 1801; in Manchester, of 914; in Leeds, of 56; whilst in Birmingham, on the other hand, those who hold houses of the annual value of £10 and under £20 would be a majority of 1431 over a minority of 1555; and in Edinburgh, the £10 householders would again be in a minority of 1806.

"Now these two tables furnish a decided reply to all those who are haunted by the phantoms of universal suffrage and revolution.

"But," the writer observes, "the more the subject is sifted and examined, the more glaring appears the error of their arguments. For after all we have heard of this immense constituency in towns to be created by this Bill, let us turn to the official statements, and we find that in twenty-six towns, including Manchester, Leeds, and Liverpool, the total number of new qualifications created by this Bill will be 33,703. On a rough calculation, taken from the census of 1821, and therefore below the real present amount, the population in these twenty-six towns amount to 820,000, so that this levelling revolutionary Bill makes the formidable addition of 33,703 votes in a population of at least 820,000."

SINGULAR DISORDER.

PEARCE, in his entertaining work on Abyssinia, says, "the diseases of Abyssinia are of a very virulent, and, in some instances, of a very singular kind: it fortunately happens, that the native medicinal herbs are of peculiar potency, and applicable to most of the diseases which occur. There is one disease, however, which, it would seem, like the bite of the tarantula, only yields to music. It is called the *tigretier*." He thus describes it:

"There is holy water at the Church Oun Arvel, which is greatly esteemed for the cure of persons afflicted with evil spirits. This is a very wonderful disorder, which I cannot pass over in silence, though the reader may think it fabulous and ridiculous; yet we have accounts of something of the kind in the New Testament, which the priests and learned men of Abyssinia believe to be the same complaint. This complaint is called *tigretier*; it is more common among the women than among the men. The *tigretier* seizes the body as if with a violent fever, and from that turns to a lingering sickness, which reduces the patients to skeletons and often kills them, if the relations cannot procure the proper remedy. During this sickness their speech is changed to a kind of stammering, which no one can understand; but those afflicted with the same disorder. When the relations find the malady to be the real *tigretier*, they join together to defray the expenses of curing it. The first remedy they in general attempt, is to procure the assistance of a learned Doctor, who reads the Gospel of St. John, and drenches the patient with cold water daily, for the space of seven days—an application that very often proves fatal. The most effectual cure, though far more expensive than the former, is as follows. The relations hire for a certain sum of money a band of trumpeters, drummers, and fifiers, and buy a quantity of liquor; then all the young men and women of the place assemble at the patient's house to perform the following most extraordinary ceremony.

"I once was called in by a neighbour to see his wife, a very young woman, and of whom he was very fond, who had the misfortune to be afflicted with this disorder; and the man being an old acquaintance of mine, and always a close comrade in the camp, I went every day, when at home, to see her; but I could not be of any service to her, though she never refused my

medicines. At this time I could not understand a word she said, although she talked very freely, nor could any of her relations understand her. She could not bear the sight of a book or priest, for at the sight of either she struggled, and was apparently seized with acute agony; and a flood of tears, like flood mingled with water, would pour down her face from her eyes. She had lain three months in this lingering state, living upon so little that it seemed not enough to keep a human body alive; at last her husband agreed to employ the usual remedy, and, after preparing for the maintenance of the band, during the time it would take to effect the cure, he borrowed from all his neighbours their silver ornaments, and loaded her legs, arms, and neck with them.

"The evening that the band began to play, I seated myself close by her side as she lay upon the couch; and, about two minutes after the trumpets had begun to sound, I observed her shoulders begin to move, and soon afterwards her head and breast, and in less than a quarter of an hour she sat upon her couch. The wild look she had, though sometimes she smiled, made me draw off to a greater distance, being almost alarmed to see one nearly a skeleton move with such strength; her head, neck, shoulders, hands and feet, all made a strong motion to the sound of the music, and in this manner she went on by degrees until she stood up on her legs upon the floor. Afterwards she began to dance, and at times to jump about, and at last, as the music and noise of the singers increased, she often sprang three feet from the ground. When the music slackened she would appear quite out of temper, but when it became louder, she would smile and be delighted. During this exercise she never showed the least symptom of being tired, though the musicians were thoroughly exhausted; and, when they stopped to refresh themselves by drinking and resting a little, she would discover signs of discontent.

"Next day, according to the custom in the cure of this disorder, she was taken into the market-place, where several jars of maize or *tug* were set in order by the relations, to give drink to the musicians and dancers. When the crowd had assembled, and the music was ready, she was brought forth and began to dance and throw herself into the maddest postures imaginable; and in this manner she kept on the whole day. Towards evening, she began to let fall her silver ornaments from her neck, arms and legs, one at a time, so that in the course of three hours she was stripped of every article. A relation continually kept going after her as she danced, to pick up the ornaments, and afterwards delivered them to the owners from whom they were borrowed. As the sun went down, she made a start with such swiftness, that the fastest runner could not come up with her; and when at the distance of about two hundred yards, she dropped on a sudden as if shot. Soon after a young man, on coming up with her, fired a matchlock over her body, and struck her upon the back with his large knife, and asked her name: to which she answered, as when in her common senses—a sure proof of her being cured; for, during the time of this malady, those afflicted with it never answer to their Christian name. She was now taken up in a very weak condition, and carried home; and a priest came and baptized her again in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; which ceremony concluded her cure. Some are taken in this manner to the market-place for many days before they can be cured, and it sometimes happens that they cannot be cured at all. I have seen them in these fits dance with a *bruly*, or bottle of maize, upon their heads, without spilling the liquor, or letting the bottle fall, although they have put themselves into the most extravagant postures."

JUVENILE MURDERER!

At Maidstone Assize, a youth named JOHN BELL, not quite 14 years of age, was tried for the murder of a boy named Taylor, aged 13, in the parish of Chatham! The circumstances of the case was briefly these: The father of Taylor lives at Stoud, in the Parish of Aylesford. He received 8s and sometimes 9s a week from that parish. On the 4th of last March he sent the deceased to the parish officer for his weekly pay. The boy was alone. He received 9s from the overseer. On returning with it, he was seen by the prisoner and his brother James, allured into a wood near Rochester by the prisoner, and there murdered by him. The body was not found until the 11th of May; when it was shockingly decomposed.

The trial was a long and interesting one. The prisoner exhibited little appearance of feeling at any part of the proceedings. The father of the murdered boy was much affected in giving his evidence; and when he proceeded to describe the state of the body when found, he fainted, and was obliged to be carried out of court. The following paper was read by Mr. Farrell, clerk to the magistrates of Rochester: it was a copy of what was stated by the prisoner and his brother at the examination: "John Bell, the prisoner, said to his brother James, on seeing the deceased, 'There goes young Taylor, James let us kill him, and take his money, and let us lay him under these stones, that we can't count over.' John then addressed the magistrate, and said, 'It was I, Sir, that did the murder; and while I was doing it, my brother Jem watched at my back. He did it he said, at one cut; adding, that the deceased was not long dying. The little boy lost his way in the wood and laid down to cry; and while the boy was laying down he cut his throat. His brother gave him the knife to cut the boy's throat. The boy squeaked when his throat was cut, as

a rabbit squeaks. He gave him two cuts. He took the boy into the wood to murder him. He had on the frock his brother Jem then wore, and the blood went on it, and was on it still. He would not tell this, he said, but Jem told first. The witness said that the brother contradicted the prisoner in a violent manner, upon which the prisoner said, 'Do you mean to say, Jem, that you did not give me your knife to cut the boy's throat; and did not you have part of the money?'"

Patterson, the constable, added the confession of the prisoner while he was conveying him to goal—

"In passing a pond the prisoner observed, 'That is the pond where I washed my hands and the knife after I did the crime,' and he remarked, on seeing a path that led to the road, 'That is the road that leads to the spot where I killed the poor boy. Don't you think, Sir, he is better off than I am?' The prisoner also showed me a place where he came out of the wood with the bloody knife in his hand, he said; and also a place where he and the deceased went into the wood; that before they had been together in a turnip field, and pulled a turnip, which the deceased pared with his knife; that then he took the deceased into the wood, under the pretence of shewing him a short way home; but after they had got some distance, he told the deceased he had lost his way, and the deceased, on hearing that, sat down and began to cry; on that he jumped on the deceased, and in an instant cut his throat; and he took the money then partly from the deceased's hand, and partly from his purse. He had great difficulty in getting the money from the hand, it was closed so fast; and after getting the money, he rushed out of the wood, greatly alarmed."

The Jury, without any hesitation, found the prisoner guilty, but recommended him to mercy, on account of his youth and the total neglect shown by his parents of his education. The Judge immediately passed sentence.

The Execution of the youthful culprit took place at Maidstone on the day after the trial. Subsequently to his condemnation, says the *Kent Mercury*, "the Chaplain paid repeated visits to his cell; 'but the profigate lessons he was taught by his depraved parents was too deeply rooted in his mind, to make Bell actually sensible of the dreadful situation in which his crime had placed him. The hardness which the culprit had displayed at his trial, and even when sentence was passed, deserted him as he entered the cell. He wept bitterly; and when his mother visited him on Sunday afternoon he accused her of being the cause of bringing him to his 'present scrape.' On Sunday evening after the condemned sermon had been preached by the Rev. Chaplain, Bell made a full confession of his guilt. His statement did not materially differ from that which was given on the trial; but he added some particulars of the conduct of his victim before he murdered him, which makes the blood run cold. He said that when he sprung upon Taylor with the knife in his hand, the poor boy aware of the murderous intention, fell upon his knees before him, offered him all the money he had, his knife, his cap, and whatever else he liked, said he would love him during the whole of his life, and never tell what had happened to any human being. This pathetic appeal was lost on the murderer, and without making any answer to it he struck the knife into his throat." At the place of execution "Bell gazed steadily around him; but his eye did not quail nor was his cheek blanched! After the rope was adjusted round his neck, he exclaimed, in a firm and loud tone of voice, 'Lord have mercy upon us. Pray, good Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us. All the people before me take warning by me!' Having been asked if he had any thing further to say, he repeated the same words, and added: 'Lord have mercy upon my poor soul!' At the appointed signal, the bolt was withdrawn, and in a minute or two the wretched malefactor ceased to exist. The body is to be given over to the surgeons at Rochester, for dissection. The number of persons present could not be less than eight or nine thousand."

Bell was short of his age, but stout; of a fair complexion, flaxen hair, and blue eyes—"the murdering colour," says a London paper!

NOTICE.

THE FIRM of Hector & Joseph Sutherland of this place, is dissolved by mutual consent. HECTOR SUTHERLAND. JOSEPH SUTHERLAND. Frederickton, 27th July, 1831.

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