

## Poetry.

At the Fifty-fourth Anniversary of the sabbath schools in connection with the baptist congregation, Back Street, Trowbridge, England, a sermon was preached on sabbath evening, May 15, by the pastor, Mr. Barnes, to a congregation of about 1200, chiefly young persons. After which, twenty of the senior scholars were each presented with a copy of the Holy Scriptures with marginal references, preparatory to their removal to the Bible Classes. Instead of the usual address, Mr. B. read and presented each of them with the following lines on—

## THE BIBLE.

Dear children take this holy book,  
And every day within it look;  
Nor e'er neglect its glowing page,  
In glad some youth, or hoary age.

We bid you mind its Author—God;  
Its Theme—salvation bought with blood;  
Its Way—the life that Jesus lived;  
Its End—the crown that he achieved.

Read it—with ever studious care;  
Read it—with lowly earnest prayer;  
Read it—in spite of pleasure's call;  
Read it—when shades of sorrow fall.

'Tis Bread—to strengthen you for toil;  
'Tis Rest—when heart and flesh recoil;  
'Tis Light—when brooding darkness frowns;  
'Tis Life—when nature yields her powers.

O, blessed book! thy words have fed  
The spirits of the sainted dead;  
By thee sustained they won the fight,  
And rose to yonder realms of light.

O, blessed book! I, too, will try  
By thee to live—by thee to die;  
Then join the immortals with their Lord,  
And need no more "the written word."

## THE CHILD'S PRAYER FOR A NEW HEART.

God of mercy! God of love!  
Hear me from thy throne above;  
Teach me how in truth to pray,  
Take my *sinful* heart away.

Often I offend Thee, Lord,  
I neglect thy holy word,  
Break thy blessed Sabbath day;  
Take my *rebel* heart away.

When my friends and teachers kind  
Bid me their instruction mind,  
Then I talk or idly play;  
Take my *careless* heart away.

Oh I disobedient grow,  
And ungrateful tempers show,  
Evil things I do and say;  
Take my *wicked* heart away.

When of Jesu's love I'm told,  
My heart how very dull, how cold!  
Oh! to me that love display,  
Take my "stony" heart away.

Mould my nature all afresh,  
Give to me the "heart of flesh;"  
For I know that grace divine  
Changes even hearts like mine.

—Baptist Reporter.

## General Miscellany.

## MORAL CONDITION OF JAMAICA.

The following statement was written by Mr. Richardson, a resident of sixteen months in the Island, and published in the *American Missionary* for June 1853:

"Their moral condition is very far from being what it ought to be. Their progress—like that of the sun behind a cloud—has been almost imperceptible. It may be compared to that of a ship beating up the harbor against wind or tide: she veers and turns—now sails *this way*, now *that*; but though always in motion, she usually *goes ahead* but very little; and sometimes, perhaps, after a deal of hard labor and skilful manœuvring, the only result has been (to use a significant phrase) 'an advance backwards.' But, seriously, I regard the present moral condition of the people of Jamaica as exceedingly dark and distressing. The mass of them are but a few steps removed from heathenism; and their condition (in some of its aspects) is even *worse*; the light they have had has only served to reveal the depth and extent of the awful degradation into which slavery has forced them. They have been bred to such habits of *duplicity* and *lying*, that it seems well-nigh a profanation of truth for them to take the word between their deceitful lips. They will boldly call heaven and earth to bear witness to the *truthfulness* of a most egregious *falsehood*. And yet you can scarcely offer greater insult to one of them, than to intimate that you doubt his veracity. So ingrained and universal has this habit of speaking falsely become, that some of the professed disciples of the God of truth are not unfrequently betrayed into its practice. It may be truly affirmed, that the proverb quoted

by Paul respecting the *Cretans* is equally applicable to the *Creoles* not under the influence of the gospel. They are, emphatically, *a nation of liars*! They will make promises and break them almost with the same breath, and with almost as little conscience about the matter as they would have about accepting a good dinner or a glass of rum, when offered them.

"Licentiousness also prevails to a most alarming extent among the people. Its foul, pestilential breath has blighted, like the mildew of death, every thing in society that should be lovely, virtuous, and of good report. The laws of chastity among the unmarried are almost totally disregarded, and where the legal relaxation exists, its restraints and obligations present but a feeble barrier to check promiscuous intercourse. Moral purity is yet known only in name. Adultery, fornication, and all manner of vileness and uncleanness, reign triumphant.

"The almost universal prevalence of *intemperance* is another prolific source of the moral darkness and degradation of this people. The great mass among all classes of the inhabitants, from the Governor in his palace to the peasant in his hut, from the bishop in his gown to the beggar in his rags, are slaves to their cups. Statesmen and judges, lawyers, and doctors, planters and overseers, and even *professedly Christian ministers*—all seek to prop up their fainting hopes and declining fortunes by the stimulus of alcohol. Drunkenness is almost as numerous as the locusts of Egypt, and, as a plague, are ten-fold more destructive and ruinous. The records of crime are (to a very great extent) the record of rum's doings, and the burden of taxes laid on the people to support paupers and criminals is a burden imposed by rum.

"The attendance upon the regular means of grace, and also upon the institutions imparted in Sabbath and day-schools, is, I believe, as a general thing, less than it was formerly, (although I am happy to add that, so far as the people *connected with this mission* are concerned, I think there is commendable progress and increasing interest in this matter.) But the great body of the people seem to have grown weary of the restraints of the gospel, and careless about affording their children the means of education and religious instruction. As a result, they are doing comparatively little to support their ministers and teachers. There has been a *most alarming decrease* in their contributions for the maintenance of the gospel, during the last few years. Church members are growing careless, worldly-minded, and covetous. Once they supported their ministers and teachers, and built extensive chapels almost without aid. Now many are doing nothing, and others give but sparingly and grudgingly for these objects. Instead of a spirit of Christian benevolence and philanthropy—a large hearted liberality, that loves self-denial, and luxuriates in doing good, a sordid penurious, and money-loving spirit is rapidly developing itself. So intense and absorbing has it become, as in many instances to supplant natural affection, and lead parents to neglect to provide necessary food, clothing, and medicine for their children, to the detriment of health, and to the endangering of life itself. For these and many other reasons I might mention, I am forced to conclude that *the great body of the people of this island are making little or no advancement in morals or religion*. On the contrary, I greatly fear that they are hardening their hearts and (unless God's mercy interpose) ripening for destruction. I know the picture is dark and the prospect discouraging, but it would be strange if it were otherwise, when we take into consideration the former condition and circumstances of the people. It must not be forgotten that we are following in the wake of the accursed system of *slavery*—a system that *unmakes man*, by warring upon his conscience, crushing his spirit, and destroying his free agency—leaving naught but the shattered wrecks of humanity behind it. If we may but gather up some of these floating fragments, from which the image of God is well-nigh effaced, and pilot them safely to that 'better land,' we shall not have labored in vain. But we may *hope to do more*. The chief fruit of our labors is to be sought in the *future* rather than the *present*."

## AUSTRALIA.

Australia, so remarkable for its immense yield of gold, which is now pouring into the lap of its mother country, comprises a territorial area estimated at nearly 2,000,000 of square miles, and with its

fertile soil and salubrious climate, is well adapted for the dwelling of millions of the Anglo-Saxon race.

There are four colonies, viz:

1st, New South Wales; area, 500,000 square miles; population in 1850, estimated at 200,000. Capital, Sydney; population, 50,000.

2d, Victoria or Port Philip; area, 90,000 square miles; population in 1850, 50,000.—Capital Melbourne; population, 15,000.

3d, South Australia; area, 300,000 square miles; population in 1850, 50,000. Capital, Adelaide; population, 15,000.

4th, Western Australia; area, 1,000,000 square miles; population in 1850, 5000. Capital, Perth; population, 1500.

The increase of population in all the Colonies, and especially in New South Wales and Victoria, since 1850, must have been very great, as these three years comprise the time during which the wonderful yield of gold has taken place.

The productions of New South Wales are gold, copper, lead, coal, wheat, barley, corn, potatoes, oats, hay, wool, butter, cheese, tallow, vegetables and fruits of almost every variety, sheep, cattle, beef, pork, tobacco, &c.

The seasons are opposite to our own. The spring months are September, October and November; summer months, December, January and February; autumn months, March, April and May; winter months, June, July and August.

March, April, and August are considered the rainy months.

Among the exports of this colony, next in importance to its shipment of gold, are wool and tallow, amounting to many millions of pounds sterling per annum.

Sydney, the capital of this noble colony, with a population of 50,000, contained in 1850, 20 churches, 2 colleges, manufactories of various kinds, excellent seminaries for the education of both sexes, Sunday Schools, &c., and is favored with one of the most secure and spacious harbors in the world. The inhabitants, are mostly English or of English origin, and with its river-plying steamboats, gas-lighted buildings, shops and streets, its public stages, carriages, customs of life, newspapers, good order and English laws, appears more like a fine city in England, than the capital of a mere colony, 15,000 miles from its mother land, and bids fair to become one of the largest and finest cities in the world.

Melbourne, the capital of Victoria or Port Philip, as it was formerly called, commencing with a population in 1837, of 250, had reached 15,000 in 1850, and rapidly become a place of great commercial trade. It contains many handsome public buildings, including custom-house, banks, churches of various denominations, Mechanics' Institute, also schools, &c. The streets run at right angles, the larger ones 100 feet in width, and the smaller 30. Gold is said to be plentiful in the Pyrene Mountains, about 100 miles from Melbourne.—There are two harbors in this colony—one called Hobson's Bay, which is the haven of the city of Melbourne, and the other Geelong, nearly 50 miles distant.

Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, contained about the same number of inhabitants as Melbourne, and its public buildings are of like character, every thing promising a rapid and substantial growth. The productions of this colony are similar to those of New South Wales and Victoria—such as gold, copper, silver, lead, grain of all kinds, cattle, sheep, &c.

Perth, the capital of Western Australia, is distant from its seaport (Fremantle) about 15 miles, and is fast becoming a place of importance.

## THE PROSPECT OF WAR.

We have in our foreign files copious letters and documents having a bearing upon the existing relations between Russia and Turkey, but find nothing, after duly weighing all the reports, which would lead us to alter the opinion we have hereto expressed, that the danger of a war is imminent. The Turkish government shows no disposition to recede from its position, backed up as it is by England and France, and the Emperor of Russia is the last potentate whom we should expect to relinquish a demand preposterously made. Not to dwell upon such an improbability, we are by no means prepared to concur in the opinion of some writers upon this subject, that Russia does not desire a war—that her interest cannot be subserved by a resort to arms. When nations repudiate the idea of 'manifest destiny,' and rulers