

lets are empaled, and their master orders them home, while he wraps the blanket around him which he has thus purchased, and proceeds to his kraal at his leisure. Beauty has been dispensed with a prodigal hand on the view which now lies before you. Flowers of rare sweetness and delicacy are every where springing amidst the verdure that carpets the valley and the swelling hills which surround it. How busy, too, the scenes at this time of preparing the ground for seed. But these swarms of laborers, so diligently plowing their unwieldy picks in digging up the ground over the valley, are females, the wives of the men who own the kraals scattered along the hill-sides. So also are those others, weakly climbing the steep ascent to their huts, with heavy pots of water on their heads. One reason why the men pursue, as their chief end, the object of procuring as many wives as possible is, that they may thus use them as beasts of burden.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

The object of this paper is to do good. Its price—One Dollar a year, always in advance, so long that scarcely a family in our country can bear it. We will supply a proper representation to the poor, who are unable to pay for it, a limited number of copies gratis.

We are very particular in addressing our paper to subscribers according to the instructions given. But should any not receive regularly, they will please notify us at once.

All communications for this paper must be accompanied with the real name of the author, in order to receive attention.

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E. J. UNDERHILL, Pub. and Business Committee.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B. AUG. 4, 1854.

THE CHOLERA VISITATION.

Substance of a Discourse preached in the Free Baptist Meeting House, Waterloo street, Sabbath morning, July 30th, by the Editor.

TEXT.

"Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the Lord; shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"—Jeremiah 5th chap. 5th ver.

There are particular seasons, when a consideration of certain portions of God's word, is likely to benefit us more than at other times. When they come nearest to our real condition, and when their improvement will bring personal facts home to our hearts, they will most probably accomplish in us the most good. The passage under consideration was uttered by the Prophet under peculiar circumstances. It was not intended as an inquiry on the part of Jehovah, as to whether he should visit the people or not; but it implied a declaration—an assurance—that he would be avenged on them. The design in this was not to gratify a divine caprice; or to exercise an arbitrary power; but to accomplish a two-fold object—first, to vindicate the holiness and righteousness of God's government; and secondly, "to seize and lay a remnant from among the people." The people had sinned—very much grievously departed from the Lord. Although they had been instructed in the ways of God, and every means necessary for their preservation in uprightness, were within their power; they nevertheless refused to obey his voice, and rejected his knowledge. The enormities of the people are enumerated in the chapters preceding the one from which our text is selected. At one time the Prophet expresses a hope that it was only the poor, or the foolish, such as were not educated, or had no leisure for studying the law of the Lord, who were guilty of such gross immorality and vile impieties; and he exclaims—"I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them,"—whose minds he hoped were more stored with the knowledge of God and his word, and who would better understand his instructions. But these were even worse than the former—they had altogether cast off the yoke of God's government, and without fear, or shame, were guilty of the vilest licentiousness and idleness. Instead of being "valiant for the truth," they "taught their tongues to speak lies" they "walked with slanders," and were "given to covetousness." Their iniquities are summed up in God's own emphatic words—"They have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein, but have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them." They had not hearkened unto his words, nor to his law, but rejected it; and although guilty of the greatest abominations, they were not ashamed, neither would they blush. And to add to the grievousness of their condition, they were soothed in their iniquity, and strengthened in their guilt, by both Prophet and Priest, who said unto them, "Peace, peace, when there was no peace."

Under such circumstances as these—especially considering two things—first, God's dealings towards other nations on account of their sins; and secondly his declaration to Moses, that he "would not spare the guilty;" it could not consist with his honor to connive at their wickedness, or pardon their obstinate rebellion, without a due amount of righteous judgment. And again he could not cast them off entirely. His oath to Abraham and David forbids this, until the Messiah had come. He therefore declares—"I will melt them, and try them." He would cast them into the furnace, and refine the mass, that is, he would bring upon them his sore judgments, and although it would be attended with the destruction of great multitudes, yet it would bring out, and purify a remnant to honor his great name. "Zion" must sometimes be reduced with judgments, and her converts with righteousness.

In carrying out this arrangement of Jehovah's government, he was manifesting a peculiar feature therein, which had ever stood prominently forth, subsequently, as well as prior to the period, of which we are speaking. "Justice and judgment" have always been "the habitation of his throne; mercy and truth," have always gone "before his face." And the wisdom and goodness of God in this, is clearly perceivable by all, but those who dwell in the dark realms of skepticism. It may be said, that the righteous often perish as well as the wicked—"that one event happeneth to them all," though the cases of mortality be—than to be abandoned

True, and "as the people rejoice when the righteous are increased;" so, when they are removed, and "the wicked bear rule, the people mourn." "The righteous perisheth"—"is taken away from the evil to come;" but terrors taketh hold of the wicked—"a tempest steals him away in the night, and the east wind as a storm hurleth him out of his place." Though the same outward calamity may happen to both—one "rests from his labours, and his works follow him;" the other "is like the beast that perish."

Having thus briefly expounded that principle of God's government, which in the view of the world is manifested in judgment; and we trust, vindicated it from the reprobation of infidelity; we shall now proceed to consider the present visitation of God on our City and vicinity, by which many of its inhabitants have been swept away, while paleness has been rendered almost all faces, and panic and alarm have driven thousands to the country to escape the pestilence. We allude of course, to the Asiatic Cholera, which now exists in our midst.

In introducing the subject, it is necessary for us to notice that the number of deaths which have been reported to the Board of Health during the last four days are 100; which is an average of about 25 per day. This may be considered small, when compared with the number which have occurred in other cities. But we should also compare the population of our city with others. If according to the population of New York, a proportionate number of deaths should occur their daily, as has in St. John, the number would not be less than 320! This is truly startling!

But to you, Christian professor, we would address ourselves particularly. You have vowed to be for God. Your identity with the Church of Christ implies this fact. Yours is a high vocation—a holy calling. The word of the Lord unto you has been, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate; and touch not the unclean thing." Has the holiness of your life, the purity of your intentions, and your sympathy with Christ in the great work of saving souls, led you into a just conformity to the divine precept? Can you really say

in the language of the pious poet—

"In vain the world accosts my ear,
And tempts my heart anew,
I cannot ay your bliss so dear,
Nor pat with heaven for you."

I do not ask you, if you have been available in your disposition—just in your translations—excellent in your social relations, & lovely in your general character.

If you have the image of God you have all these; but you may also possess these and be without religion; but alas! they are but the beautiful wild flowers in the wilderness of unenlightened humanity. Where there is

no daily struggle against self and sin—no wrestling

for victory over the world by faith—there must be a

conformity to itsometime, a participation in some of its

unholy pleasure. We regard conformity to the world in various respects, as one cause of controversy between God and his people. Where is the self denial of apostolic day—where the deadness to the world—its profits, its hour, and its pleasure, which character and the primitive disciples? Alas! has not the distinction between the church and the world, to a great extent, become lost; and in many respects, the benevolence and disinterestedness of the worldling outshines that of th Christian. Blessed as we have been with every need of grace, how much has been consumed upon our lusts. Prosperity, instead of causing humble gratitude and thanksgiving to God, has filled us with pride and vain sowing; and instead of being used to advance the cause of Christ, has contributed to the gratification of our esires, causing us to live in pleasure, and making us sot on the earth. How has gaudy apparel, with gold and silver, adorned these poor frames; that the cholera before night may fit for winding sheets, and mak food for worms; while our souls have been left unclothed with the fine linen—adorned with the righteousness of saints! How have we pampered these bodies, and gratified every taste of our own, however impure, while we have despised the poor inheritance, and like ancient Israel, lived on flesh, but had leanness sent into our souls. How have we neglected the house of God, and the place of prayer, but have often been found in the place of carnal amusement. The party of pleasure—the ballad concert—the wonder of magic—the innumerable exhibitions which have thronged our city—from the low *cabarets* show to the grand circuses—have had more attraction for some than the sanctuary of the Most High. How has a tale or a romance afforded us more delight than the word of God; and literature had more charms than divine instruction. Though professors of religion, how little have we thought of the perishing millions of our fellow men, and as if to remind us of our neglect, it is to those people "the dark places of the earth," and dwell in "the habitations of cruelty," who in blind superstition offer human sacrifices to what is no god; a messenger, concealed in the miseries and woes of idol worship, has knocked at our doors. And, Oh! what shall we say? If this be a true representation of India's perishing millions, let pleasure, wealth, home, friends, and life itself, all, all be dedicated to the glorious work of abolishing that system which gave birth to the Asiatic Cholera!

O Christian professor! all our short comings in what

God requires of us may be traced to one thing—the want of personal holiness. We have been satisfied with

profession, and have raised the standard of christian

excellence no higher; hence we have been as unfeited

for fellowship with God as though we had never heard of him. And now what shall be done? Thank God,

we have a mediator with the Father—a glorious High

Priest, who is "able to save us;" the uttermost all that

come to God through him." Let confession of sin be made—let the righteousness of God be acknowledged in the present outstretching of his hand, let prayer, with

humiliation and fasting, be made. In a word—let

there be a "cleansing from all filthiness of the flesh

and spirit, and a perfecting of holiness in the fear of

God," and let the church enter upon her high vocation, remembering that holiness is the end of all God's dealings toward us in grace and in providence. If he chooses us from eternity, it is that we might be holy. If he call us in time, it is to holiness. If he give Christ to die for us, it is to purify us from all iniquity. If he pours out the Spirit, it is to sanctify us. If he gave us the Scriptures, it is that by them we might be made holy. If he chastise us by affliction, it is, "that we might be partakers of his holiness." Then, and not till then shall we really be, "the salt of the earth."

And now, O man of the world! what shall we say to you? The contest in which you are engaged is an unequal one. And though you realize your hope for a season, what will you have gained, "when God taketh away your soul?" Say not, that you have never professed religion—render none of those excuses that many are endeavouring to make—they are only refuges of lies. Think not to hide yourself beneath the sins of some christian professor; nor yet presume to defy God. Your sins have called for his rod. It will be well for you, if it does not harden you in your guilt, and render you more invulnerable to the truth. Your case is a most critical one; and should the present visitation fail to soften your heart, and God should say of you, as he said of Ephraim, "Let him alone," how deplorable it will be. Better, if you had died of the Cholera, and not been left to fill up a greater measure of guilt, to know your undying worm to all eternity. O unconverted man, your iniquity—if persisted in—will be your ruin. We will not suppose you guilty of any of those gross immoralities, that disgrace character, and require legal restraint. Of course you know that "neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." We will not include you in these. But you have not believed the gospel—you have hardened yourself against God, and your sin has called down his judgment. Your sin perhaps has slain that innocent wife, a beloved child, or esteemed friend—and according to the statute book of God, you are guilty of murder. Think not, if you survive this dreadful visitation that all is well. Remember "the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite—but for a moment." Oh! take words, and turn to God—it may be he will blot out your sins, and cleanse your soul.—

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