AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER,

NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA

That God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ-PETER.

VI.---N() 14

ELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER ingelical Family Newspaper, BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

shed every Friday Morning, No. 26 Germain Street, St. John, N. I

TERMS, Shillings and Six Pence YEAR-IN ADVANCE.

here they wish to receive their pa-

ost Profitable Conversation ever Held.

nd, were I now to ask you if you could hat may be considered the most imand edifying conversation ever held bepersons during the whole period of 's history, I believe it would puzzle little to think what it could be.

that have been held in all the ages of 's history,-what can it be? I am well t the great mass of conversations are but 'profitable.' There is plenty of and idle talk in the house and by the re is enough surely of scandal-propassip, and profuse conversation about everything, and nothing, while the rning call is being performed; but 'the e lips,' in all these circumstances, and sand others which might be named, only to penury' of mind, and not to suppose this conversation to which must be a thing of the past? Is it

t is a thing of the past, and it has ap nd has proved exceedingly 'edifying,' of the conversations of your morning vening parties would appear to much -in print. It has been published milmes; and as it is of infinite moment hould read it and understand it, and est side of it as a model on which to our conversational powers, I may as t once that it will be found in that caary, containing sixty-six different books, he poorest family in the land may besessed for a shilling."

w I see where you are, and the converwhich you allude. Don't you refer to rsation held one night between a Jewman and the Redeemer, which we have by one of his disciples?'

y! And you know, of course, that it is nd in the third chapter of the Gospel to John. That I believe to be the table conversation ever held; for it rot ed that ruler's eyes, changed his heart, him a disciple of Christ, but it has ed the means of salvation to multiill ages. Let us turn it up at present, from the beginning of the chapter to the e twenty-first verse. \* \* \*

hat we have read that most remarkable lion, let me ask you, Have you undere to which it points ?"

I am not sure that I even fully compremeaning of the language; and I am id I have never realised experimentalto hear you talk to me upon the sub-

appy to hear it. May the Lord bless the regenerating grace of His Holy ile we talk over what He said to that

Conversation Explained.

is flesh,' 'Flesh,' or corrupt human nanfit to enter God's kingdom, and will tinue so. No self-regeneration is to be The total depravity of nature rental spiritual change of absolute necessiwhole race, and every individual man, conscience is defiled, his understanding ned, his affections are anenated from ing, weeping, striving against sin, and obeying be early notified. apt, his appetites ungoverned, -and, un- first this born again experience." Holy Spirit work an entire change on e faculties of his spiritual nature by the the Gospel cleansing away his filthiness as water cleanses away outward defilemust remain an unfit subject for God's

## ST. JOHN. NEW BRUNSWICK

"And, observe, that Jesus spoke of two classes through Himself, lifted up as a mediator, and interested friends in making their requests of the Protestant States of Germany is the dungeon duty, the record shows that you have lost many

does not Jesus represent our condition as ut'erly might have life through His name.' require to charge His nature, before He admitted pose towards perishing sinners. any of us into His kingdom, with curnature un- "It you want a new heart, 'behold the Lamb "Besides—as a professor in one of our col-

leges has well remarked-'It is a principle of our nature, that, in order to happiness, there must be some correspondence betwixt the tastes, the dispositions, the habits of a man, and the scene in which he is placed, the society with which he mingles, and the services in which he is employed. A coward on the field of battle, a profligate in the house of prayer, a giddy worldling standing by a death-bed, a drunkard in the company of holy men,-feel insincttively that they are misplaced; they have no enownent there.' And what enjoyment could unegenerate men have in God's kingdom, on earth, or in heaven? Eventhe outward services its meaning, and have you the new-born of the sanctuary below are distasteful to them, in proportion to their spirituality. As long as preachers keep by the pictorial and illustrative, -and speak of the seasons of the year, the beautiful earth and the ancient sea, -mounw birth' to which the Great Teacher re- tains and plains, rivers and lakes, fields, flowers wish I knew more of spiritual things. and fruits, -sun, moon, and stars, -they compregentleman say, the other day, that, in hend the discourse and applaud it; but when the in Ecotland, hundreds are inquiring, deeply-spiritual and eternally-important form the ewish ruler, and, in several places in theme, they feel listless, and characterise it as hundreds were lately been again; and dull prosy and uninteresting. But if we cannot y wish to be so too, and would be real- enjoy a highly spiritual discourse. it must be bewe are ' carnal,' and want the spiritual 'sense' which always accompanies the Lew birth; for the natural man receiveth not the ness unto him; neither can he know them, benot an alarming truth, that this being 'born again' is not a making of ourselves better, but a Christ, the incarnate Son of God, as- being made anew spiritually by God himself! it was not hard to preach a funeral sermon.

set upon unworthy objects, his desires God's laws, is just so much lost, unless you get Another annoyance, which is even of a still

experience is utterly beyond my reach."

much as 'see the kingdom of God;' and we can serpect in the wilderness, and you will thus be character while living. get out of our natural state only by a spiritual made to live. You say you are prostrated and who were themselves fallen and corrupt, are ne- want to live, - to experience such a new life as a Christian, he must have been one of eminent energy and enterprise and increasing richness of rigeteousness as the stars forever and ever."-And those who are recovered from the disease the discourse. "Well, but I fear, by publishing such extreme of corruption, tell us that they were born again,' But what shall we then say in regard to the But wherever we find the Protestant faith, even views, you may make many well-meaning per- not by lying in their corruption and crying for a expectation of speaking favorably of such as in its least favorable types and the worst of physons feel disgusted at religion and go off from it new nature, and expecting it to come in some were known to be destitute of piety, or even sical conditions, we witness a prosperous and adarbitrary and different way from that of faith, but openly vicious? The idea is shocking. And vancing community. Our inference must be that "But it is not our fault if they go off at a tan- their uniform testimony is, 'Of His own will be- yet we have it to lament, that ministers are of an eloquent, and in this case a weighty and gent from the sphere of divine truth. Are you gat He us by the word of truth; we are new creasometimes drawn, in some degree, into the temp- impartial, judge. Lord Macaulay thus writes in convinced that Scripture is right when it says, tures, being born again by the Word of God; tation. I scarcely know words strong enough his History (vol. 1. pp. 48-9):-The heart is deceitful above all things, and des- and 'whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ, to designate this perversion of the high calling "During the last three centuries, to stunt the perately wicked?' Do you believe that you are is born of Ged.' Regeneration being by faith, of the holy ministry. On ordinary occasions growth of the human mind has been the chief obmore like Satan than God-incapable of know- you must fill your eyes with the atoning cross, if we preach to the people the solemn truths of the ject of the Roman Catholic Church. Throughing, loving, or serving God, and utterly unfit, you would have your heart filled with life. Thi, Bible-that the true believer shall be saved, out Christendom, whatever advance has been notwithstanding your morality of life, for enter- Jesus clearly teaches in his conversation with and that the impenitent sinner shall be damned; made in knowledge, in freedom, in wealth, and in Nicodemus, and the whole drift of this Gospel is and then, if we could so far forget ourselves as the arts of life, has been made in spite of her, and "Certainly you do not flatter human nature !" a copy of the mind of Christ on this point, for to "preach to heaven" the ungodly, according has everywhere been in inverse proportion to her "It is, no doubt, hard to believe that one's the writer says, towards its close, 'These are to popular expression, we evidently preach power. The loveliest and most fertile provinces own self is so bad as I have indicated, - and written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the "another gospel, which is not another." We of Europe have under her rule been sunk in none but the Spirit can convince us of it : but Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye

depraved-'flesh?' Does He not here solemnly "If you still feel that you know nothing of codemus, can see or enter the kingdom of God? conversation. Don't close the book and mean He does not say that he may not, but that he over the misery of your state, as it is now discannot, enter,-leaving it to be inferred that it is covered to you by the awakening truths contain. fact of its being a kingdom, as well as from the until you take in the discovery of the plainfact of our depravity. An anarchist has a deci- gracious, free, and holy way of getting out of who rise from a sick-bed, on which they profess- as to the tendency of Papal domination." ded dislike to constitutional and settled govern- your misery, as you have it laid down by Jesus God's kingdom is governed, cannot be a loyal teenth, of His own all sufficient sacrifice, and subject of His holy administration. God would His Father's unexampled love and gracious pur-

changed. But as God cannot change, we must, if of God,' and receive him as your Saviour; 'for we would see or enter His kingdom. Before we this is the record that God hath given to us can be happy and loyal subjects of it, we must be eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that born again,' and thus get its laws written in our hath the Son hath life. He that believeth on the laudatory speaking at funerals? If weeping grow, and who are the seedsmen in spring whom Son of God hath everlasting life."- British Mes-

## Funerals.

Few p rsons, except ministers, themselves, er of light veil the human mind in grosser darkhave any adequate idea of the difficulties and annovances experienced by ministers in regard to

time. It seems to me that there is no other class of persons in the community approached with the same air of presumption. The implication appears to be that ministers have very little to do beyond sitting about and waiting for orders from the people. Why, one should think that bringing the matter down to the simple ground of politeness, people would first, as an expression of coursesy, consult the clergyman.

Next, the minister is often the last one to be notified concerning the death of the person at metimes follows from the arrangements among inexperienced managers; but generally it is the result of ignorance in regard to the length of things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolish- time preachers should have for preparation. It is not usually thought that the likeness of subcause they are spiritually discerned.' And is it ject, and similarity of circumstances, render funeral sermons among the most difficult to prepare. I know, I was myself once accustomed to think absolute necessity of regeneration, This appears evident from what Jesus said during presumed the occasion would give sufficient says, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, His conversation with Nicodemus. His words thought and inspiration; not thinking that like man be born again, he cannot see the are these, ' Except a man be born of water and occasions usually direct our minds into like chanof God.' And farther on, He says, as of THE SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom nels .- But experience has completely reversed and decidedly, 'Except a man be born of God' This great change is effected by the my decision. It requires extraordinary quickand of the Spirit, he cannot enter into Holy Spirit, through means of the living 'water' Less and fertility of mind to avoid a wearisome lom of God.. And He gives a fact as of the Word of God,—the testimony of Jesus,— and profitless routine in many successive funeral on of this necessity, That which is born and is of a spiritual nature, for that which is discourses, unless there be reasonable time afborn of the Spirit is Spirit. It consists not in forded for thought and arrangement. It is well outward reformation, but inward transformation. known that some men usually preach the same We must be regenerated in soul, in order to be discourse in substance, with only a little variatruly reformed in life. The change is of such a tion in arrangement, at almost every funeral nature, that it is sure to be manifested outward- they attend. Hence the greatest heaviness frely if it exist inwardly. If you wish to have a quently characterizes the sacred exercises atdepraved in heart, his will averse from holy life, the readiest road to it is that which tending the deeply solemn services at the leads through the laver of regeneration. Pray- burial of the dead. Ministers should, therefore,

fore God, a sick and dying sinner; and I may ture of funeral discourses. It has become a "No, not at all. For, remember, Jesus con- sermon to the living. It is often really amazing at other times the scorn, and never the admira- ask yourself, "what report they bore to heaven." tinued to lay before this Jewish ruler atonement to observe the blindness and folly manifested by ! n, of mankind. Austria, compared with the If, in reviewing the past, which is at once your taken first away."-Dr. Guthrie.

only-those who are fleshly and those who are God's free love to a perishing world, embodied preacher. They want a variety of virtues asdespotism over all, we discover a decaying race. march nearer home."-Guardian.

might thus, in conforming to the feelings of friends poverty, in political servitude, and in intellectual not only lose a good opportunity of pointedly torpor; while Protestant countries, once proverwarning and directing erring, careless men, but bial for sterility and barbarism, have been turned aver, that without a new birth from above, not being born again, bring your mind into broad we should place an obstacle in the way of our by skill and industry into gardens, and can boast one, no not even a moral, learned, inquiring Ni- and immediate contact with THE whole of this fu ure success, that no amount of labor could of a long list of heroes, statesmen, philosophers, and poets. Whoever, knowing what Italy and There can, also, be no doubt that professed Scotland naturally are, and what four hundred death-bed conversions should generally be pass- years ago they actually were, will now compare morally impossible. And this arises from the ed from verse third to verse ninth; but go on ed by without much notice. These are certainly the country round Rome with the country round often deceptive, judging from the fact that those Edinburgh, will be able to form some judgment

ed repentance, usually return to the ways of sin. We do not make these remarks in order to ment,—so a man, who hates the laws by which when He speaks, from verses fourteenth to seven But suppose there be occasionally genuine in- urge the exhibition or to stimulate the action of stances, is there not danger of producing a an intolerant spirit toward Mexico, but to remind hurtful instead of a hopeful effect on others, by our readers of the true solution of her misery .our referring to such cases with confidence? Her insults to our flag, and her violent aggres-Sinners who catch at every straw to encourage sions on the lives and property of Englishmen their hearts in sin, are thus rather relieved than will no doubt bring down the retribution such alarmed. But we may yet ask, what good can misdeeds deserve. But in punishing we may try possibly, in the generality of cases, result from to discover from what seeds such pernicious fruits friends wish to have their grief allayed by de- weeping reapers follow in many a bitter harvest. ception, in the name of all that is holy and -- The Press, 12 February.

"I have Lost a Day."

truthful, let not the minister of the gospel assist

in confirming their deception. Let not the bear-

Roman Catholic Nations.

How comes it to pass that nation after nation

which the Romish priesthood is dominant

perishes down to its roots with a steady and ir-

resistible speed? From recent accounts, Mexico

is fast becoming disorganized, disintegrated, and

approaching nearer, every day, to utter and en-

ness. The minister, by speaking words not What a world of moral significance is crowd. according to wisdom, may succeed in allaying ed into these five words. One of Rome's best grief, which time might do; but if, in doing Emperors, accustomed to make every day count First, it is very seldom that the minister who this, he make a false impression concerning the something of happiness to his subjects, and peris expected to officiate is in the least consulted gospel on an immortal soul, an evil may be effect- mitted the solemn history of twenty-four hours in regard to the time of the funeral service. The ed which no time or effort may ever be sufficient of his life to go unmarked by a single good deed day and hour are fixed, and the minister is quiet- to undo. Let the people consider before they to a living soul; and over the bitter memory of y told that his services are expected, just as make their rquests of ministers of the gospel; that fact his noble spirit cried out "I have lost though there were no possibility of his having and let ministers consider before they comply a day!" Such an utterance, on such a theme, other important duties to attend to at the same with the people's request .- Lutheran Observer. was alike worthy of the head and heart of the

But if a Heathen Ruler, without the light of revelation upon his spirit, could thus mourn over a lost day, what should be the relation of a Christian's conscience to the question of lost time? Most certainly taught by the sacred oracles "to redeem the time," by doing good of every possible sort to all men, what fearful responsibilities tire destruction. " Of Mexico," says the Times, are thousands of professing Christians rushing "at the present hour it is difficult to the inhabi- on to meet at the bar of eternity on the score of tants of a civilized land to form an accurate "unredeemed time!" With the more than whose funeral he is expected to preach.—This notion, nor does any history treat of so sudden trumpet-toned voice of revelation ringing in their and rapid a decline." What, we ask again, ac- ears, the earnest question, "Why stand ye here counts for this? It has a splendid climate and a all the day idle?" how can it be otherwise than prolific soil. Its children are many of them the they should say, then and there, not with the sons of heroes and nobles, and its annals are by Roman Emperor, "I have lost a day," but giving no means monotoneus or dull. It has been link- utterance to that deeper wail of the heart, "I Church may awaken in all the churches a spirit

ed to a monarchy, and separated and formed into have lost a lifetime!" a republic. It has endured chains and enjoyed This life is full of grave duties and awful refreedom. But in all its conditions it has known sponsibilities. There is much for every man, es neither prosperity nor real social elevation. One pecually the Christian, to do in the world, and marked feature it has. Its priesthood is by far every man's salvation in eternity, depends on the you." the richest in Christendom. Its Church property matter of his doing it. "Time is short," on the is enormous. So strong are its ecclesiastical one hand; and the work great and varied to be guardians, that when Juares proposed to seculiar- done, on the other. No good man can lose a ize a portion of it, in order to maintain the barest day without incurring responsibilities of the national life, the priests raised an army against gravest nature; because so much is lost to the him, and gained the day. What does all this progress of the world in religion, virtue and hapwealth represent? A plundered people. What piness. And who may tell the extent of that means this powerful priesthood? A prostrate loss? That day has been lost in the history of Government. What is the necessary and logical many a professor, which was followed by the result? Bankruptcy-confusion-civil discord still more terrible loss of the soul of a friend or -unmeaning insults on the flag of England, pro- neighbor, whose salvation might have been the sary powder and shot to inflict. Finally, far- in his iniquity, but his blood will I require at seeing minds discern for Mexico in the distance thine hand," is a passage of serious application utter chaos or a powerful dictator. But is not to many who have professed the religion of Christ every nation in which a superstitious Papal How replete with agony the very thought! The priesthood is dominant very much in the same day is lost in which no good is done in any way more serious nature, arises from the unreason- condition? Spain has sunk daily during a cen- to our fellows, and eternity will so declare it. "Ah, but this lays me entirely prostrate be- able expectations of friends in regard to the na- tury and a half in all that constitutes the glory of How many such days, Christian reader, can you a government or the greatness of a people. Italy count up in your past history? Summon back

WHOLE NO.

spiritual. We are naturally connected—as are in the gift and work of His Son. You want to cribed to the departed, and very often, too, when Mexico, Peru, and Brazil are centuries behind if you want a motive worthy of your highest all mankind—with those who are 'born of the be born again. Well, Jesus tells you to look to no one ever knew the dead in question to have the descendants of the Pilgrim fathers in Massa- energies, find in these joy-inspiring utterances of flesh,' who, on that very account, cannot even so the Son of Man lifted up as Moses lifted up the been greatly concerned about such qualities of chusetts. Yet soil and sunshine and climate are the blessed volume, "He which converteth the all in favor of the former, and ice and rock and sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul Of all the foolish demands from the minister bleak land are all against the latter. Who would from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." birth; for only that which is born of the Spi- helpless, -with the poison of the serpent cours- of the gospel, I think this cannot well be ex- venture to place the poverty and sloth and idle- "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness rit is spirit.' All of us being born of parents, ing through you, -sick and dying, and you ceeded in folly. Even if the deceased has been ness of Lower Canada on the same level as the of the firmament; and they that turn many to cessarily infected by the hereditary toint of de- shall prove not only a present counteractive to attainments, and well known faithfulness, to Upper Canada, which is Protestant? The stag- Let us resolve, then, by the grace of God, with pravity of natute; and, besides, 'the carnal mind the virus of this terrible death-poison, but also warrant the minister of Jesus Christ to refer nation of a Romish canton in Switzerland, con- such a motive as "saving a soul from death;" is enmity against God, and is not subject to the an enduring spiritual reality. Well, Jesus says with confidence to his life as worth; of special tras's powerfully with the tidiness and industry and "turning many to righteousness," before us law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they in this conversation with the inquiring ruler, that study and imitation. If this has not been the and intelligence of a contiguous Protestant to "do good unto all men as we have opportuthat are in the flesh cannot please God,' and can- 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only case the speaker does more harm than good. Canton. The light and intelligence and inde- nity." This, adopted as a rule, and faithfully not enter into His kingdom. Attempts at mo- begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him There are usually many present at a funeral as- pendence of Ireland are in Ulster. Her misery carried out in practice, neither you, reader, nor rality are of no account with God. A moral Ni- should not perish, but have everlasting life.'- sembly who have had far better means of know- and beggary and brigandage, and her chacteristic myself, will ever have occasion to say, "I have codemus was told he required something deeper God sent not His Son to condemn the perishing the character of their neighbor than the crimes are in Connaught, where we see every lost a day;" but every evening's twilight will and greater than conformity to a certain stand- ing men of the world to lie in their corrupt and minister; and, therefore, in the minds of such variety and similarity of features, political and find us happy in the consciousness that we have ard which passes with the world for morality. diseased condition and perish for ever; but that there is awakened a feeling of disgust, that physical; but where, beneath a dominant superneutralizes whatever truth may be contained in stition, brooding and stamping the mark of its that day, and have "pitched our tent a day's

Christian Influence.

The "True Union" has the following

Every professing Christian is exerting an influence in the world, either for good or for evil; and while many are among the former class, it is to be feared that not a few are ranked with the latter. An inconsistent Christian is every day doing an incalculable amount of evil; the world point to such an one as though he were a true exponent of Christianity. Until members of our churches are consistent, we do not expect to see a great outpouring of the Spirit on the Churches to which they belong. We quote the language of a writer very much to the point on this sub-

"The Christian is to be a living representative of Christ. He is in all things to glorify God. He is not at liberty to adopt the maxims, to act on the principles, or to copy the habits of the world. His business transactions are to be conducted upon the principles of rigid truthfulness. justice, and integrity, free from all trickery. shuffling chicanery, crocked policy, and double dealing. The glory of God is to be his governing motive; the precepts of the gospel are to be his rule of conduct; his speech is to be ' with grace, seasoned with salt;' his spirit kind and benevolent; and his whole character to stand out transparent with the light of sanctity. Thus only can Christians become 'the living epistles of Christ, known and read of all men,' and 'the salt of the earth,' diffusing a conservative principle, and preserving it from moral decay."

Did Christians in general thus practically exemplify their Divine religion, we should soon witness its salutary influence upon the tone and habits of society. The world is a keen and critical observer of their conduct, and is properly far more regardful of practice than of mere profession; and never can Christians reasonably expect to make any powerful and permanent impression upon the world in favor of Christianity till their religion becomes an all-pervading element, and their profession and deportment are seen to be more in accordance. Were every member of a church thus seen wearing the image and reflecting the glory of Christ, what a powerful influence would be daily going forth to convince observers that our religion is not a convenient sham, a garb for an occasion, a Sunday mask for a spiritual drama, but a living and lifegiving element, a Divine and blessed reality .-Gainsayers would be silenced, the thoughtful would be compelled to admire, and the careless would be awakened to enquiry and concern; a noble breastwork of moral defence would be thrown around the Church and a mighty breakwater raised to drive back the flood-tides of ungodliness and infidelity from the face of society. Christians, thus living, would be fortified with confidence and qualified by spiritual energy and zeal to act for Christ and attempt the conversion of the world, and the world would be constrained to believe their sincerity and respect their benevolent labors for their good.

Our prayer is that the Great Head of the of searching inquiry, as to why the blessing prayed for is withheld. Then will there be deep humiliation on account of failures and defection, and God will say, "from this time will I bless

SPARE THE SINNER .- " Away yonder," he exclaimed, "down in the deep, dark glen, gathered around the cold rocks, under the shelter of the wild precipice, are Scotland's persecuted fathers with their families, to hear the Word of Life. Every man bears his gun, and the sword is by his side. A stalwart sentinel keeps his eve to the hilltops, and down to where the glen winds into unseen ravines. Elevating his arm, the intimation of expected danger is given. A signal voking retribution it is scarcely worth the neces- achievement of a well spent day. "He shall die from the outpost confirms it. The worshipping band gather closely together. On come the onpressors with their gleaming arms and bloodshot eyes. The strife is near. Then, standing on an elevated rock, the venerated pastor spreads his hands to heaven, and with quivering voice, but dauntless heart, exclaims, 'O God, spare the green and take the ripe!' 'Tis thus I, too. would plead to-day, as death comes thinning our give myself up to despair at once, for such an monstrous evil to expect the minister to pro- is become a byword in Europe, and its capital gone-by days, those days that God gave you in ranks, hurrying us to the judgment—that the nounce an eulogy on the dead, instead of a gospel and its petty sovereignties, sometimes the pity, which to win souls to happiness and heaven, and sinner may be spared till he has accepted the ransom offered by his Redeemer, and the ripe be

ost profitable of all the millions of con-