The Religious Intelligencer.

AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

REV. E. McLEOD,] "THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." Peter. [Editor and Proprietor.

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THE INTELLIGENCER.

ABSTRACT

OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY, 1862.

It was a cheering view which the great Apostle of the Gentiles took of the work in which he was engaged, and of the source both of his strength and of his success, when, writing to the Corinthians, he said, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of His knowledge by us in every place."

And your Committee feel that such a testimony may well be the key-note of that song of praise with which they are permitted this day to lift up their voice. They have had a solemn trust confided to them by the Christian Church, and in the discharge of that trust they have sought to shed the light of Truth upon the dark places of the earth, and to carry the message of salvation to a perishing world. And now that they are called upon to review the year that is past, and to give an account of their stewardship—now that they bring into one focus all the rays of mercy with which their way has been lighted, and mark the various dealings of God's providence and grace in connection with the circulation of His Word—they cannot but "give thanks unto His holy name, and triumph in His praise."

How that Word may yet be prospered, and what success may attend their efforts, even in their own day, they know not, but they feel assured that the following details, which the history of the past year affords, will amply suffice to justify them in the sanguine view which they entertain of your Society's hallowed work, and to prove that God has blessed it of a truth, and that the smile of His countenance still rests upon it.

France.—It is difficult to calculate the importance of the work, in connection with this country, in which your Society is engaged. It is not at a peradventure that you are working, as though the remedy which you propose for all that people's ills were not sure. You see them tossed hither and thither on the wild waves of conflicting feelings and changing opinions, and you know that the only chart in which their course to a haven of peace is laid down, and the only compass by which they can steer their bark thither, is the Word of God. It is this simple fact which gives such significance to the cheering statement which your Committee are permitted to make, that the issues of the past year exceed those of the year preceding, and have reached an aggregate of 88,048 copies.

Belgium.—In a country in which the Roman-Catholic religion preponderates, and consequently the power of the priests prevails to such an extent, as in Belgium, it is scarcely to be expected that any very marked or rapid progress will be made in advancing the cause of truth.

The issues from the Brussels Depot during the past year have amounted to 6661 copies.

The Antwerp Association for Colportage among Seamen has been very successful, having distributed 340 Bibles and 1043 Testaments.

Holland.—Mr. Van der Bom states, that during the past year as many as 21,461 copies of the Word of God have been distributed among the population of the Netherlands.

Cologne.—The Rev. G. P. Davies, of Frankfort, now gives his personal attention to the affairs of the Cologne Agency as well as his own, and has been enabled to put them in such a train as greatly to contribute to the efficiency by which the operations of this district have been characterized.

The total circulation has been 23,795 Bibles, and 47,636 Testaments and Parts.

Frankfort.—The issues from Frankfort have amounted to 83,712 copies, whilst the receipts have reached the sum of £3080 9s. 6d., being an increase of £136 15s. 10d.

Berlin.—Your Committee rejoice in being permitted to state that His Majesty the King of Prussia has already expressed himself as favourably disposed towards your Society, and as taking a lively interest in its welfare.

On the occasion of His Majesty's coronation, a congratulatory address, accompanied by a large quarto Bible, was presented to him through your President.

Your Committee were also glad of the permission granted them to present Her Royal Highness the Crown Princess of Prussia a similar Bible to the one which had been accepted by the King. A most gracious acknowledgment was sent, accompanied by a donation of £50.

Major Westphal's self-denying labours in behalf of the Prussian army are maintained with devoted perseverance. Upwards of 24,000 copies of the Word of God have, through his instrumentality alone, been distributed among the Prussian soldiers since your last Report.

Denmark.—The action of your Agency in Denmark is necessarily very limited, but it is encouraging to find that some considerable progress has been made in the distribution of the Scriptures, and that the issues, which last year amounted to 6989, have this year risen to 11,396 copies.

Norway.—There are few portions of the wide field occupied by your Society in which its labours are more abundantly valued and blessed than in Norway. The dew of God's Spirit, which, during the last few years, has refreshed so many barren spots, has not been withheld from its simple-minded people. They read with eagerness, and receive with faith, the promises of the Gospel, and from many a little community there rises up the incense of prayer and praise, which is as the smell of a field which the Lord hath blessed.

The total issues of the Scriptures in Norway have amounted during the year to 19,931 copies.

Sweden.—In looking back along the way by which God has led them, the Committee of the Stockholm Agency find ample cause for thanksgiving, in that He has allowed His Holy Word to go forth among them in such rich abundance. They have been allowed to spread 81,531 copies, being 1902 more than during the year 1860.

Iceland.—It is with much pleasure that your Committee announce that an edition of 10,000 copies of the Icelandic New Testament with the Psalms will shortly issue from the press.

Russia.—St. Petersburgh.—There are few countries towards which the heart of the Christian turns with more longing desire and prayerful hope than Russia. The emancipation of the serfs, now in progress, is a noble act, calculated to shed a lasting lustre on the present Emperor's reign. May it be rendered doubly sweet to them by the enjoyment of the glorious liberty of the children of God, and may the voice of one mightier than any earthly monarch be heard in the midst of them, saying, "Ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free!"

The Synod has printed six editions of the Gospels, making in all upwards of 200,000 copies.

The distribution of the Sacred Scriptures has been considerably promoted by the Society's Agency; 18,460 having been put into circulation.

Spain.—The mind instinctively recoils from the consideration of the subject, which the mere mention of this country suggests in connection with the Bible. We can but heave the sigh of sorrow, and drop the tear of pity, and lift up the heart to God in prayer for his special interposition, when we remember that men are pining away in the damp solitude of their dreary prison-house, for no other offence than that of obeying God's command to search the Scriptures. It is scarcely necessary to add that all action, as regards Bible distribution, is for the present suspended in this country, as well as in Portugal.

Italy.—It is impossible even to cast a hasty glance over the history of this interesting country, so long the scene of spiritual darkness and moral degradation, and to mark the contrast which exists between its present and its past condition, without exclaiming, "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes!"

He who has said, "I will overturn, overturn, overturn, until He shall come whose right it is," has by the mysterious working of His providence rolled back the tide of impurity and corruption which had so long desolated that land, and even on the thick sediment which ages of misrule and intolerance had left behind, is bidding His people test the vitality of the good seed of His Word, and its ability, under circumstances which might almost tempt man to despair, to bring forth fruit unto everlasting life.

Milan.—During the past year the work of disseminating the Scriptures in Lombardy has been placed on a better footing than before, for there is now in Milan an open Depot in a public street, and already there are three colporteurs attached to it.

Turin.—The sale of 4600 volumes from this Depot is sufficient evidence of the success which has attended the labours of our friends in this locality.

Genoa.—No fewer than 7000 copies of the Scriptures have issued from the Depot at Genoa during the past year, 2600 of which have shed their light on that part of Italy which has hitherto been the most dark and desolate.

Florence.—The work in this important city still advances steadily, though the priests use all their influence to impede its progress.

Leghorn.—Leghorn is more important as a Depot from which the Scriptures are supplied to other parts of Italy, than on account of the work of Bible circulation effected locally.

Naples.—The excitement with which the Word of God was received in this far-famed city was doubtless occasioned, to a great extent, by political considerations. We must not, therefore, wonder if much dross is still mingled with the fine gold.

Sicily.—Notwithstanding all the hindrances of the local authorities and the zeal of the priests to impede the spread of the Scriptures, most of the large towns of this island have been visited by the colporteurs, and one of them has been instrumental in selling no fewer than 1300 Bibles and Testaments.

In reviewing the work of the past year in connection with this most interesting field, your Committee cannot but rejoice that they have been permitted to scatter the good seed so abundantly throughout the land. Much opposition has been met with, but it has not come unexpected. When the powers of darkness see their kingdom invaded, they will needs struggle hard to retain possession of it. Into how many a synagogue of the Jews did the Apostles enter from which they were thrust out, and commanded not to teach or to preach any more in the name of Jesus? Still they persevered, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And in like manner your Committee desire to carry out their mission of love, neither daunted by difficulties, nor discouraged by opposition, but leaning on an Almighty arm for support, and looking to a faithful God for whatever measure of success He may see fit to bestow.

Malta, North Africa, Egypt, and Syria.—Malta.—This Agency, now under the superintendence of Mr. Bruce, has been most useful in supplying Scriptures in the various countries bordering on the Mediterranean. The issues of the past year have amounted to 13,952 copies.

The Rev. W. Fenner, our correspondent at Tunis, has succeeded in distributing 300 copies, chiefly among the Italian-speaking portion of the population.

Egypt.—It is with the most lively feelings of satisfaction that your Committee advert, on the present occasion, to this remarkable country. The Viceroy of Egypt has given a large building in the centre of Cairo, valued at £10,000, for the use of the American Mission in that country.

The Committee of the Bible Society in Alexandria carry on their important work with continued success, and, during a year and a half, ending last December, have issued from their Depot upwards of 1500 volumes.

From the Depot at Cairo have been sold, during the last twelvemonth, 1200 portions of the Scriptures.

Palestine and Syria.—From the Depot at Jerusalem there have been distributed, during the past year, in ten different languages, 835 copies of the Scriptures; and it is a matter of no small interest to learn that upwards of 600 of these were sold to sailors belonging to different vessels of the Russian navy.

Damascus.—The very name of which, on the occasion of your last Anniversary, was sufficient to oppress the mind with sadness, and fill it with dismay, on account of the atrocities which had there been perpetrated, may now be regarded with some degree of renewed hope.

It is with much pleasure that your Committee have again made a grant of Scriptures to Mrs. Thompson, of Beyrout, for use by the Ladies' Association for the social and religious improvement of Syrian Females.

Turkey.—In reviewing the operations of this Agency, your Committe regret to be compelled to notice a diminished circulation. They do so, however, with the less reluctance, because conscious that there have been various causes, beyond the control of their Agent, which have contributed to produce such a result. The issues have amounted in all to 14,516 copies.

Of the work in Constantinople, Mr. Thomson gives a favourable report. To overrate its importance would be difficult, if we consider that, in point of population, this is the third city in Europe.

Bulgaria.—The Report of last year spoke of the readiness of the Bulgarians to receive the truth, and of its extensive diffusion among them. Your Committee are thankful to be able now to confirm the hope which was then entertained.

Moldo-Wallachia.—No less pleasing is the intelligence which is furnished concerning the principality of Moldo-Wallachia, where the thirst of the Roumans for the Word of God is said to be continually increasing.

Greece.—Mr. Thomson, anxious to become personally acquainted with his new district, paid a visit in the course of last summer, to Athens, and the principal cities of the Peloponnesus.

The issues in Greece during the past year, have amounted to 1298 copies.

India.—It is not a little humbling, when required to give an account of the cultivation and productivenesss of our Indian field, to call to mind the fact, that more than a century has passed away since we became entitled to call India our own.

Had we been true to our holy trust, India might have become one of the brightest jewels in England's crown, and millions upon millions of her sons and daughters might even now have been walking in the light of the Gospel, and rejoicing in the glorious liberty of the children of God. Not that, in a temporal point of view, it can be said that our Mission has altogether failed. We can point to some wounds bound up, and some sores healed. We have abolished rites so cruel that it is well they should be now forgotten, and we have promulgated laws of justice, equity, and truth, obedience to which cannot fail in its effect of developing the character of any people, and, in a subordinate sense, of exalting the nation.

But God has given us India for higher purposes than these. Not simply that we should set before its people the evidence of our greatness, or the refinement of our civilization, and bid them learn of us; but that we should set before them Jesus in His dying love, and in His living grace, and bid them learn of Him who is meek and lowly of heart, and thus find rest unto their souls. Your Committee are most thankful to be able to record their conviction that such an end has been kept prominently in view by those with whom they are associated in that distant land.

Calcutta.—At Calcutta the issues have amounted to 18,979 copies; whilst from the Depot at Monghyr there have been distributed 9309, making a total of 29,288 copies of the Scriptures.

A change has taken place during the last year in the secretaryship of the Calcutta Auxiliary. Mr. Herdman having resigned, the Rev. Dr. Mullens was appointed in his stead.

The principal work of the year, in connection with the press, has been the completion of the new edition of the Bengali Bible.

The Committee of the Calcutta Auxiliary lay great stress upon the importance of colportage, and the need of enlarging its operations.

A letter from the Hon. M. Wylie, of Calcutta, lately received, gives an interesting view of the progress of the Gospel in India. He speaks especially of the growing importance of several of the Missions as centres of action. Their number is multiplying, the circle of their influence is enlarging, and the Christian element is being diffused among the people, and recognised by them to an extent that has never yet been known.

North India—Allahabad.—It is with much thankfulness that the Committee of the North India Auxiliary acknowledge the receipt of the large supplies of vernacular Scriptures, with which your Society has furnished them.

Madras.—This Auxiliary, which embraces in its operations the whole of Southern India, occupying an area of 335,315 square miles, with a population of nearly 43,000,000, is making steady progress. The success of the past year supplies sufficient material for thankfulness to God, whilst it inspires those who are engaged in the work with a stronger faith, and a brighter hope, for the time to come.

The total issues during the year have amounted to 55,091 copies.

Bombay.—In a country in which less than one per cent. of the population attend school, and not more than from two to three per cent. are able to read, it is hardly to be expected that the circulation of the Scriptures will be otherwise than very limited. It is, however, with much thankfulness that your Committee observe that, during the past year, the issues have amounted to 7935 copies, being nearly double those of the year preceding.

Ceylon.—Colombo.—Your Committee have received but little information during the past year concerning the action of their Auxiliary at Colombo. The Rev. Mr. Fenn has been appointed to succeed the Rev. Mr. Whitley as Secretary.

Jaffna.—One of the most interesting features of this Auxiliary is the Bible meetings which are held, for the instruction of the natives in Bible History and Bible Truth. The three senior Missionaries of the district have held fifteen of these, most of which have been attended by a numerous audience, and have been productive of most gratifying results.

China.—There will ever be periods in the experience of those who are earnest in the Lord's work, when they are constrained to acknowledge that they have come to an end of human wisdom, and in perplexity of mind, if not in dejection of soul, to exclaim, "Lord, we know not what to do, but our eyes are upon Thee." And such is the experience of your Committee at this time, with reference to the vast field which China affords for the development of Christian energy, and the spread of Christian Truth.

Shanghai.—The correspondence of the Rev. W. Muirhead, during the past year, has been deeply interesting. Having proceeded to Nankin, he obtained permission to join the expedition under Admiral Hope to Hankow. His object was to form a judgment of the state of the country by actual inspection.

Wherever the influence of the Rebel Chief prevails, blasphemy, tyranny, and misery, but too clearly depict his assumption of power, his despotic sway, and the desolation which marks his course.

The issues during the year, from the Depot at Shanghai, have amounted to 23,201 copies.

Canton.—Your Committee are still unable to give any satisfactory account of the work of Bible distribution in this locality. The difficulty of meeting with men of christian character, on whom reliance can be placed, is a great hindrance in the way of colportage.

Hong Kong.—A Depot has been established in one of the principal stores of the city, and the sales of English Scriptures have been considerable.

The Committee at Amoy report having distributed, in that city and the surrounding district, upwards of 1300 copies.

Japan.—It is most encouraging to find that a way is now being opened for the evangelization of this country, and that the Bible in Chinese can be distributed amongst its people with the utmost freedom. Your Committee hope that the visit of the Japanese Ambassadors to this country may be the means of softening down prejudice, and facilitating freedom of intercourse, and obtaining a willing hearing for the gracious message which the Word of God reveals. Three Bibles in the Chinese language have been suitably bound for presentation to these distinguished foreigners, and it will not be the fault of your Committee if each member of their suite, from the highest to the lowest, does not carry back with him to his own country, the record of that salvation which is by Christ.

(To be Continued.)

THE TIME IS SHORT.

BY REV. JAMES SMITH, CHELTENHAM.

Our time on earth is short, and it is daily growing shorter. Life glides away, death and eternity approaches. A little while, and we shall close our eyes on all the scenes of earth and have done with all the concerns of time. Few things fly swifter than time, or reads us more solemn lessons. Yet we slight them and forget them, or fail to improve them. O, for grace to derive comfort, reproof, and stimulus from the brevity of time.

"*The time is short*," then our troubles must be short, for they are all limited to time. They are the offspring of sin, and will not outlive their parent. Every trouble leaves one the less to be endured, and the last trouble will soon arrive.—Let us therefore bear them with patience, endure them with fortitude, and rejoice in the prospect of bidding them an eternal farewell. Our sharpest severest trials will soon be ended, and then all that will remain will be peace and joy.

"*The time is short*," then the pleasures of time will soon terminate. Sweet as they are, they are fleeting. Prize them as we may, we must soon part with them. Not one of them will go with us beyond the dying bed. Let us not, then, value them too highly, or set our hearts too much upon them. Earthly comforts, distinctions and honors will soon meet together in the grave-yeard. The peasant and the prince, the beggar and the monarch, will alike slumber in the dust. Let us, then, if tempted to think much of the distinctions, or to value too highly the comforts, of life, remember that the time is short.

"*The time is short*," then our opportunities to be useful must be few and brief. A short day, at best, is all that is allotted us to do good below; therefore we are admonished to work while it is called to day, for the night cometh when no man can work." If I work for God, I must do it now; if I speak for Christ, I must do it now; if I try to save souls from death, I must do it now, if I would comfort the sad and sorrowful, I must do it now. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave to which we are fast hastening.

"*The time is short*," Jesus will soon be here. He is coming, and his people are crying, "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly." He is coming, and his Word assures us, "He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry." How will many things which now occupy our time, engross our attention, and steal away our hearts, appear when Jesus comes? On this august event we should fix our eye. On this glorious manifestation of Christ we should set our hearts. For this majestic appearing of the Son of God we should prepare and watch. A few short days, or months, or at the most years, and Jesus will be here. He will come and gather all his saints to him, make all his people like himself, and so they shall be ever with him."

Sinner, "*the time is short*." Are you saved? Are you ready for the coming of Jesus, or the day of death? What will the end of time bring you? Where will it land you? How will it find you? Will it find you a new creature in Christ Jesus? Will it find you pardoned, justified and sanctified? Will it find you prepared, ready, waiting, for heaven and glory? Or, will it find you dead in sins, without Christ, unsanctified, and unsaved. Look into the matter now; attend to your soul and its salvation at once; for it is of the greatest moment. O flee from the wrath to come! O seek, seek the Lord, that you may be hid in the day of his fierce anger, and stand accepted before Christ at his coming.

Backslider, "*the time is short*." Repent and do thy first works. Go and return to thy God, from whom thou hast so deeply revolted. Seek afresh the application of the atoning blood, and the cleansing operations of the Holy Spirit.—Beware, O beware, lest coming suddenly, thy Lord find thee sleeping! Beware, lest thou be found naked, and so be ashamed before him that is coming! Rather seek to be found without spot, unrebukable, and blameless in the day of Jesus Christ. Thy conduct has been base, thy sin is grievous; but there is merit in the blood of Jesus, there is mercy in the heart of Jesus, and there is a full warrant in the word of Jesus for thee to return, and be fully blest.

Discouraged Christian, "*the time is short*."—Go on with thy work. Do not look too much at the clouds, nor pay too much attention to the winds; but plow in hope, sow in hope, and watch in hope for a harvest. Thou art not able to command success, but thou canst be faithful; and thy Master has promised to reward thy faithfulness at his coming. Yield not to fear, listen not to unbelief, give not way to Satan; "for the time is short;" and thy work, however feeble, however imperfect, however unproductive it may appear, shall be rewarded.

Believer, "*the time is short*." Lift up thy head with joy. Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for tribulation will soon cease, sorrow will soon flee away, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Time is the limit of thy conflicts, doubts, and fears. Time is the limit of thy pains, privations, and griefs. Beyond time, for thee all is peace and pleasure, purity and perfection, happiness and rest. Lift up thy head with joy, for thy redemption, thy eternal redemption, draweth nigh.

A MOTHER'S TRUST.

Several years ago I became acquainted with Mrs. M——, an aged widow, whose character deeply impressed me. She had passed through much sorrow, and from her trials had come forth as gold. Her faith was sustaining and triumphant. She appeared to live on the mount with God. Her joy in God, in his providences, in his purposes, was continually breaking forth in praise. Her delight in the doctrines of grace was singularly intelligent and hearty. Sin was rebuked in her presence; but so beautifully did she combine fidelity with the charity of the gospel, that no one was known to resent her admonitions. Scoffers who were wont to mock at other professors, when the name of widow M—— was mentioned, spoke of her with manifest respect. Her speech was "always with grace, seasoned with salt," and not a few owe their conversion, under God, to her personal efforts and prayers.

It was my delight to visit her, as often as the varied and exhausting cares of a large congregation would allow it. From the first I took my place at her feet as a learner. I wondered at her child-like filial spirit, the constancy of her communion with God, and the ardour of her love. On one occasion, after a long interview with her, I asked her eldest son, a valued member of my congregation, "How long has your mother been in this heavenly frame?" He replied, "For forty years she has lived in the land of Beulah. During all this time I have seen scarcely any change."

Widow M—— was a firm believer, and in the spirit of faith offered many prayers for the conversion of her children and grandchildren. It was my privilege to ordain, as an office-bearer in the church, the son to whom reference has been made. He had six children, some of them already grown to man's estate, but only one of them, the eldest daughter, gave evidence of piety. Still widow M—— was unshaken in her trust that her grandchildren, as well as her children, would be saved.

This aged pilgrim ripened for heaven, and at length a token was given her that she was to be called home. She was visited with a cancerous affection, which speedily brought her days on earth to a close. I saw her frequently during her last sickness, and the nearer she approached the dark valley, the more clear and resplendent was her spiritual experience. Her faith overcame all difficulties. Her confidence and joy were unbroken. Christ was, in a wonderfully real sense, *her companion*.

Her work was done. Sweetly she sank to her rest, and we buried her with tears of mingled grief and gratitude. Widow M—— was dead; but the faithful, prayer-hearing God in whom she trusted lived.

A few months passed away. The three eldest sons of Mr. M—— found pardon, as they believed, through the blood of Christ, and made public profession of their faith.

The fifth child, a lad of about nineteen, was in delicate health, and fell into a profound melancholy. He said he had sinned away his day of grace, and there was no mercy for him. He was pointed to the cross, and urged to flee to it. He was assured of the sufficiency of Christ and of his willingness to save, but all in vain. His gloom was fast deepening into despair. His father had waited and hoped for his salvation; but now it was evident the question must be speedly decided, once and for ever. On Tuesday morning the father went up to the neighbouring village for medical aid; and as he went he wrestled in an agony of prayer that William might be converted. "All at once," as he narrated the story to me, "a promise flashed upon my mind. My distress was gone, and I went on, leaping for joy, and praising God for that promise. On my return, I found William engaged in audible prayer for mercy, and as soon as he stopped praying he fell into a sweet sleep, the first he had had in two days. He slept two or three hours, and awoke. Immediately he called the family around his bedside, and wanted to shake hands with them. I asked him how he felt. He replied, "All is peace." His confidence in God was serene and cloudless to the last; so that his father said to me, "I have as full confidence and assurance that William is in heaven as I have that my good mother is there." I did not wonder at his saying so. That grandmother's reliance, that father's agony and unwavering trust, were graciously accepted.

These events were blessed by the Holy Spirit in arousing to thoughtfulness Mr. M——'s sixth child, and in a few weeks she was rejoicing in hope, and in due time was joined to the church. The remoter consequences of widow M——'s faith time will unfold, and the story will be told in eternity.

My reader, it is a great thing to trust in God. If there were more believers like widow M——, strong in faith and love, and hope, giving glory to God, would not more unbroken families be found at last in heaven?

TESTIMONY OF AN AGED SAINT.

At a prayer meeting held recently, a distinguished clergyman rose and said:—

I have, twice in my life, been brought very low by illness, so that I supposed myself near the eternal world. The first time, I had a great sense of the worthlessness of earthly things. Everything connected with this life seemed small—exceedingly small—and of little consequence. I did not wish to return to it, and engage again in its bustling scenes. They seemed too trivial to engage the attention of an immortal being. I longed to bid them adieu, and depart to a brighter world where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.

The second experience was quite different. I was strongly impressed with the importance and privilege of living in this world, and of doing good *even in the smallest things* I saw that every act of life took hold on eternity—that it was a great privilege to live here, that I might do something, even if it were but a small act, to advance the Redeemer's kingdom; and that no effort put forth in this direction, with reliance upon divine aid, could be lost. It appeared to me an unspeakable privilege to live here, to do anything, *however small*, to promote the glory of God, and the good of man. I wished to come back to life for this purpose. The speaker added, with deep emotion: "It seemed to me that, to get this deep impression was worth all the suffering of a severe illness."

How interesting are such statements of personal experience, and how much more suitable to prayer-meeting than the cold exhortations we too frequently hear on such occasions.

AN OLD SEA CAPTAIN'S EXPERIENCE.

I lived more than theescore years without any regard to God. I had commanded many a ship out of the port of New York, and it was not till this great revival of 1858 and 1859 that God was in all my thoughts. But the Holy Spirit took hold of me, a few months ago, and shook me out of my spiritual slumbers. I got my eyes open, and found myself among the breakers. I did not know enough about prayer to know how to cry for help. I looked into the book of sailing directions, and I found, "Our Father, who art in heaven," and I took hold, and held on, crying, "Our Father." Then I looked in the book of sailing directions again, and I found it said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." I looked on the whole that was said about the Lord Jesus Christ, and I found he was just such a Saviour as I needed in the storm, and I cried out to him, "Lord save—I perish." No sooner said than done. The Lord Jesus was as good as his word. He cut me adrift from my sins, the ship righted—I clawed off the rocks. Christ was now the Captain of my salvation.

"Happy day—happy day.
When Jesus washed my sins away."

I tell you, brethren, it's smooth water now. I was almost gone. I was just sinking—swamped, and water-logged, and rigging all over the side, and in the trough of the sea, *and everything else*. But the great Captain cut me away. How quick he put all to rights, when he took hold—ship free—all stanch and tight. "Happy day, when Jesus washed my sins away."

I am an old sinner, just saved by grace. I was almost gone. Now I must redeem the time. I ask for no easy duty. I must be much on deck. It is not watch and watch below, and on deck alike, as you know is the rule of the ship. But I must make my watch short below, and long on deck: I am in for duty, strong. Voyage of life almost over. No time to lose, Made poor headway all my life. Hope to meet you all—when we have made port, and got to the good haven—and we have entered in through the gates into the Celestial City.—*Light on the Ocean.*

UNHAPPY MARRIAGES.

It is a pitiable spectacle, indeed, to see a cheerful, active, and spirited woman, bound down to a sour, selfish, sensual man. She is a pretty bird in a dark, narrow cage;—she is a fawn with a heavy yoke on its slender neck;—she is an angel transmigrated unto the body of a hyena. The Lord be merciful to her.

Patience Reed—a little, laughing, blue eyed girl of our early acquaintance, married a man named Cage,—and a cage—an iron cage—he proved to be for poor Patience. He was as selfish as a hog, and, after the honeymoon, about as dirty in his habits. He was as unsociable as a bear, as snappish as a wolf, and mean every way. True, he professed religion, and stood pretty well in the church. Poor Patience loved him as long as she could. She tried to be happy, to make him happy, and to make her home pleasant; but she could not. Hope died in her—died hard. She became pale and weak, and longed to die too. Her starved heart froze at last, and the good angels took their sorrowing sister into more congenial society. Jeremiah Cage would have been astounded if you had told him that he murdered Patience—but he did!

And many a man,—naturally kind, pure, and enterprising, has been ruined forever by a wife who would be miserable, and who would compel her husband to be miserable with her. Let us sketch the history of a wretched man who may be seen almost any day, in shabby apparel, walking the broad and pleasant streets of this city. The story is a short one,—not so his night of misery.

Fifteen years ago, Longfellow, we will call him, was a hopeful, and promising man. He had tact, talent, education, piety, friends, energy, and some money: and he had married, as was generally believed well. But his wife was an intensely selfish woman. She regarded him as an acquisition to be appropriated henceforth according to the whims of her exceedingly whimsical nature. For years he strove to make her and his home cheerful, but could not. She was an ugly, ill-conditioned creature,—in an ill-humour in the morning, in a pet at noon, and in a pout at night, or well-prepared with a curtain lecture. At length his heart, which hungered for the love of a true woman, failed. His business energies failed him. He began to neglect the church, and to smoke and drink. Still his conscience was tender, and he made vain attempts to rally. But his large and generous heart ached, and he sought to sooth it at the liquor-shop. Foolish, unfortunate man! He has lost friends, virtue, honour, every thing but the bitter, bitter, recollection of a place he once called *home!*

His wife, now no longer his,—regards him as a very bad man, and herself as a most exemplary, but badly used woman. She would never have married him if she had dreamed he would turn out so, and she never suspects that she drove him into the gutter; but she did!

We are sometimes at a loss to determine why some persons will be so disagreeable,—why they persist in supping nothing but misery, and pressing only bitter cups to the lips of their friends. God is good. The world around us is about right. We have a blessed Redeemer. Eternal life is within the reach of all. Why, then, are people miserable in the absence of any physical or social cause? Something is owing to organization, something to education,—and much,—we fear too much—to *covered sins*.—*Rel. Tel.*

An Open Door.—Revelation says to the church, "Behold I set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." As Mr Barnes comments, "The temple of salvation was thrown open to them; the celestial city was accessible; the whole world was before them as a field of usefulness." *An open door!* It is a beautiful figure of language. Sinners may escape out of the prison of sin—the grace of God sets an open door, that no man can shut. It sets before lost men an open door into the kingdom of grace here, and an abundant entrance into heaven. Why should not sinners everywhere, soon as such grace is proclaimed, accept the proffered pardon, and enter the pathway of life?

And then, too an open door for usefulness to individuals, and to the church. What doors are open for the entire church—Africa, Japan, China India? Several poor heathen to every single Christian—thousands in darkness, for dozens who are in the light of Christ. The harvest indeed is great, and the gospel labourers are few! What doors have been thrown open to the church within one year? Let each ask, *what shall I do?*