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Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH 7, 1862.

STEPS IN BACKSLIDING.

ABSTRACT OF A SERMON

Preached in the Free Baptist Meeting House, Fred ericton, Sabbath morning, March 2d, 1862, by REV. E. McLeon.

TEXT-Matthew xxvi. 69-75. Gradual development is a law of nature. It is generally the method of divine government. Nothing is perfect at once. The day does not rush into light at once, there is the early dawn, the grey morning, and the sun rising. Summer does not immediately succeed winter-spring with its frosts and its sunshine intervenes. The oak is not perfect at once: it | go at once away from Christ. Even after they have exists in the acorn, then in the scion; and long years, lost fellowship and communion with him, they folwith the breasting of many a wind and storm, are re- low for awhile in duties, ordinances and privileges; also with man. He is the tender babe at first, then the sprightly boy, and afterwards the full grown man Thus it is also with his mind. Much study, discipline, and practice are required to give him a strong, vigorous and properly trained mind. As in nature so also in grace. The new born christian is not a full grown christian. He may be perfect and complete in character, but not in measure. Paul did not know as much, nor was he as great an Apostle o. Jesus Christ when he began to preach at Damascus, as he was after long years of experience, and labours, and suffering in the cause of his Master. So also

Now it is singularly true (and we think it is ow ing to the constitution of the human mind), that what is true in nature and in grace is also true in the progress of vice and guilt in the impenitent and god less. There is gradual development in sin as well a in nature or in grace. The child is a sinner-" h goeth astray from the womb speaking lies"-but he is not so great a sinner, nor so hardened a sinner as he will be after living years in the practice of sin. Many men have perpetrated crimes in the latter year of their lives, from which they would have starte back with horror and dismay in the early stages of their career. We have all heard of the artist who is seeking a model from which he could put on canva the picture of innocence, selected a beautiful, happy and innocent child. Years afterwards, when desirou of shewing in contrast with this, the picture of guilt, he entered a prison in a foreign land, and from amon the outlaws confined within its cells, he selected on whose countenance bore every mark of depravity an desperation, and who was under sentence of deat' for the awful crime of murder. But what was hi ment to learn that this criminal, whose features now constituted the model from which he coul draw the picture of guilt, was once that same laughing happy child that sat a model for innocence. Me do not become hardened sinners all at once. Ther is a process in it. It takes time and practice; an we believe that the impenitent are always growin in that world of despair where no restraints exist

Now we also think as there is gradual devel also the same gradual development is manifest the course of backsliders, or in other words, tha men do not go great lengths into backsliding at single bound. It is by little and little. There are steps or degrees in departing from God which ma be discerned and marked out. And from the histor. of Peter's fall, the consummation of which constitute our text, we design to trace some of the common stages of departure from God, and may the Holy Spirit make the improvement a warning and bei

1. The first step in Peter's fall was presumption It manifests itself in self-confidence. The betrays was at hand. Jesus said to his disciples,-" All yshall be offended because of me this night." Peteconfidently replies,-" Though all men shall b offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offend ed." "Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto ther that this night before the cock crow, thou shalt den me thrice. Peter said unto him, though I should di with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee." He knew but little of himself, and his self-confidence proved the first step in his fall. (2) But presumption sometime manifests itself in self-rightsousness. Persons regar themselves more righteous than their neighbours. A single fault of a brother is more the subject of re-

all but themselves have become formal and dead. step after step in sin, until at last becoming the Or, it may be, that defects do exist; and much igno- companions of sinners and blasphemers, they deny rance and irregular walking may dishonor the profes- that they ever knew Christ, ignore their former faith; sion of some. With the proud arrogant spirit of the and to confirm their denial beyond doubt or dispute, ancient Jew, the self-righteous believer, instead of they "sin with a cart rope," and restrain themselves seeking to save the erring, says to his less perfect from no iniquity. Such is the full length to which a brother, "Stand thou there for I am more holy than gradual departure from God will lead. Its complete thou." (3) Presumption may also manifest itself in consummation is only a question of time. The first self-conceit. Presuming that we have made greater step from God is the first step toward this fearful end. attainments in religion than others, that our experi- It may not in all cases be arrived at-in thousands ence is deeper, our knowledge greater, our communion of cases, as in Peter's, it has been sadly realized. with God closer, we can scarcely fellowship the trembling, struggling, doubting brother with but little the history of Peter's fall, and what followed. fluency and no emotion. In most cases of backsliding, it commences in presumption in some form or another-in self-confidence, self-righteousness, or self- ance toward weaker brethren. Would we avoid conceit. Peter's was the former. The others are 2. The second step in Peter's fall was indolence.

They were in the garden. The hour and power of darkness were come. His Master told him to watch and pray. Instead of these he slept. This is not to be wondered at. Peter thought he was safe. His self-confidence made him blind to danger, and instead of watching and praying as Jesus told him, he yielded to sloth and took his rest. This is the common result in all presumptuous persons. They see every body's danger but their own. They discover no especial need of so much private self-examination, prayer, and watchfulness in themselves, as others require. They are strong, or whole, or more spiritual than others, and can afford to take their rest-to sleep, while others pray. The closet becomes less frequently visited, the counsels of the Word are less sought unto, the thoughts and conversation are less guarded, self-denial is less practised, and all the small and private duties of religion become fewer, and are more loosely performed. This was the case with Peter. And no wonder that when his Master was apprehended and led away to trial that Peter forsook him and fled. Where there is not much watching and prayer there will be very little suffering with Christ. "In the time of temptation they fall away." This is usually the second step in all backsliding.

3. The third step recorded of Peter is cowardly compromising. Having forsook his Master he then fession, and their attendance on the public ordinances of religion and means of grace are less frequent than before. Small excuses will keep them from the prayer meeting. The preaching of the Word affords them but little edification. Expediency dictates their religious practice. Less devotion to the cause of Christ, and less sacrifice for the promotion of religion become apparent. They still claim their places in have less fellowship for the brethren, love their company less, and to the close and careful observer there following Card which you will please publish. is evidently a great "falling away." This marked Peter's fall, and the same may be noticed in the history of every backslider.

4. The fourth step in Peter's fall was the company in which he was found. Man is a social being-he is so constituted that he requires association. His if ever, be a heart found that does not want some kindred heart with which to sympathize and converse. Men and women will find associates, even if not as agreeable as they would desire. So it was with Peter. He had forsaken the Lord and fled with the other disciples. No wonder he was next found among the enemies of his Master. When christians lose their fellowship for their brethren, and their communion with Christ, their hearts begin to turn to other company, and other and different associations will be formed. When private conversation and intercourse with God's people are abandoned, conversation and intercourse with the irreligious of some class will be sought after. And when the prayer and conference meetings, and other public means of grace have lost their attractions and charms, it is no wonder if social parties of pleasure and godless mirth are required, and even sometimes the place where religion is openly ignored, and Jesus in his Word and members is as much insulted and abused as he was in his holy and blessed person in Pilot's judgment hall. Peter sat down with the servants-strange conduct for the bold, impetuous champion, that only a little before declared he would die for his Master! Sad contrast indeed for him that only a few hours before, with the other disciples and Jesus, had surunded the table of the Lord, and received from esus' own hand the first memorials of his dying love, and had also on that solemn and ever to be remembone another." But throughout that terrible night

5. We now come to the fifth and last step in the Lectures on the American War. In a brief editorial fall of Peter. Men are known by the company they paragraph in the same paper in which "Haven's" keep. It is impossible for us to associate and be on first critique appeared, we expressed our dissent friendly terms with others, without either influencing from the view presented in his articles. We, howor being influenced by them. The verdict of society ever, permitted their publication because our Ameriunbelievers and mockers-no wonder that he should we were desirous of giving an opportunity for both deny his Master. Had he kept with Jesus he would sides to be heard. The following very excellent letknaves, the presumption is that he is one too: if not already, he soon will be. "Evil communications corrupt good manners." If church members frequent bail-rooms, card parties, and other places of godless amusement, it is but reasonable to suppose and to make a few general remarks. It is with much that they indulge in these things. Peter was with reluctance I bring myself to write you on the subswearers, and he swore too. He was among those it. Still I think it desirable to make a few cormark than ninety and nine good traits of character who reviled Jesus, and he denied that he knew him. rections. would be. The church becomes too impure to: What an illustration of many professors! Leaving It seems to be generally known that "Haven" is

them—the faith is not earnestly contended for, and the fellowship of Christ and the saints, they go on

Two lessons of especial importance are taught in

1. The danger of the first departure from a humble dependance on Christ, and a charitable forbearbacksliding? Commit then the keeping of our souls unto Jesus, as unto a faithful Creator. Lean upon him, and take heed least we fall. Watch and pray least we enter into temptation. It is the most presumptuous folly to think we will go so far, and then stop ! Once out of the way-with restraints loosened-with grace weakened-with impure inclinations strengthened, we know not where we will go, and we shall "eat of the fruit of our own wages." Avoid then the first approach to sin, and examine the heart. 2. Have any already gone astray. Have they taken the first, second, or more steps in the downward course. "Peter went out and wept bitterly." He left his company -- he ceased his swearing, and doubtless confessed to God his denial of the Lord. He found mercy, and afterwards fought many a hard battle for the Master he denied. Would you return to Christ? Humble yourselves before God by fasting and prayer. Let close and diligent watchfulness be added thereto. Confess your sins to the Saviour, and forsake them without reserve. And, in conclusion, let nothing short of full restoration satisfy your mirds. Know for yourselves that the blood of Christ has washed out your sins, and that his grace has healed your backslidings. Rest not until you again feel in your hearts that he loves you freely. May the Holy Spirit bless the word.

THE REVIVAL AT CAMPOBELLO.

BROTHER McLEOD, -I wish to state to your numerous readers how religious interests are here in Camfollowed him afar off. Backsliders do not usually pobello at present, and I do so because the subject was relative to the probable action of the United turer. as been named heretofore in your valuable paper. States if Ireland were in full national revolt. I thus quickened, and is at present standing strong in the American press eighteen months ago. First, suppos quired to make it the sturdy and defiant tree. So but it is at a distance. They compromise their protravelling with alacrity in their heavenly journey. I have had the blessed privilege of baptizing fifteen happy converts, and receiving eight others to our union and fellowship, making twenty-three in all, that have been added to the church since the commencement of the revival. There are still some five or six present is not so great as it was a few weeks ago, but there are a good many that are still awakened, and the Church, but their zeal has become cold. They whom we hope to see born into Christ's Kingdom soon. To God be all the glory. That the spirit of

> A CARD .- Our thanks are due to our brethren and friends of Wilses's Beach, Campobello, for a surprise visit made to us on the evening of Feb. 15th, by a few friends, who were a committee and almoners of our friends, on the present occasion. They left with us in substantial goods, for our family's use about happiness is depending upon it; and there can rarely | \$23 in various articles, and presented us with a purse of between 13 and 14 dollars, making in all a donation of about \$36. May God abundantly reward the donors for this expression of their kindness, esteem and sympathy in these hard times.

A. TAYLOR. A. T. TAYLOR.

Campobello, Feb. 20, 1862.

COMPLAINT AND APPROVAL. An esteemed brother in the neighborhood of Woodstock sends us the following letter. We much regret the irregularity with which he receives the Intelligencer. We are quite certain it is not the fault of our Publishers, but we have called their attention to the complaint. It is no little gratification to us to learn the estimation in which the Intelligencer is held by our brother and his family. This is the best guarantee for the support of the paper. We can assure our subscribers that its weekly contents cost us no little thought and labour; and the highest renuneration that we seek is the benefit of our readers and the approval of God. It is encouraging to receive occasionally a line shewing our efforts are appreciated by candid christian men. The writer the seceder might make a stand, then, with emanci-

REV. E. McLEOD, Dear Sir :-- For some months past I have only received about three numbers of the Intelligencer a month. Please enquire if it leaves your office. When I leave the Post Office on Saturlay evening without the Intelligencer, I feel that through the neglect of some person I am deprived of a rich treat; for allow me to say that of late, more ered occasion, received from the Saviour's own lips than ever, myself and family reckon on profit and that rum of all good law-human and divine-"Love pleasure from its weekly visits, and when it fails to come on a Saturday evening, we are much disap-

er step in the downward direction. Peter's THE REV. MR. NARRAWAY'S LECTURES.

We insert with much pleasure the following communication from the Rev. Mr. Narraway in reply to the criticisms of our City Correspondent on hisgives men the same reputation that their companions can friends complain that injustice is done them in have with whom they associate. Peter was with the Provinces on the platform and by the press, and not have been sitting with servants; and the natural ter of the Rev. Mr. Narraway is valuable for the inboldness of his nature would not have degenerated formation that it contains, and we doubt not will be into cowardice at the challege of a woman. But men read with much pleasure by all who take any interest

and the Pastor of Zion Church in this city-an ami- tion, embodying the principle of compensation to the able gentleman for whom I entertain sentiments of sincere regard. The fact of "Haven's" being an Americal definitely and decidedly rejected by the South, then can citizen neither weakens nor strengthens his let peaceful separation take place between the incomarguments; but it accounts for the very remarkable patible sections. I said, " If the Northern people could light in which he surveys the whole question, and have risen to the level of this grand opportunity, and for the ex cathedra tone in which he pronounces on performed this magnificent deed in the interest of husome most difficult points. This fact, however, has manity, the civilized world would have placed at its not induced him "to overstep the courtesies of feet its tribute of profound esteem for such a sublime debate," nor has it prevented him, in some cases, from "mistaking my meaning." With every disposition to reciprocate personal courtesy I cannot think that any of my intelligent, impartial auditors at the Institute will say that my Rev. friend has done justice to my reasoning in his report; far less that ficult to reject her addresses; and the dear old mohe has answered my arguments, if to answer be to ther herself" &c. This great opportunity was lost confute. 'Tis true he has, in substance stated many never to return. And now, if Jonathan come to us things advanced by me, yet some of the most impor- with garments rolled in blood-his brother's bloodtant of these are so transposed, commingled and dis- and stretch forth to us his gory hand, just free from torted, that none of your readers, not among my hearers, can gather from "Haven's" review any just conception either of the force of my argument or the relevancy of my illustrations. I am not about to reply to his arguments directed against positions of struggle, it is both our duty and our interest to live mine fairly stated; because to do so effectively would on the most friendly terms with our Republican neighrequire more time from me, and more space from bours—to cultivate a trade with them that will be be-you, than either would willingly spare. And, indeed, neficial to them and to us—to carry on an interchange it is to me a matter of the most perfect indifference what my fellow colonists may think respecting the able to both parties. origin and merits of the American civil war. I have We may well sympathize with the suffering of both reached very strongly formed opinions myself respecting those matters, which, when occasion offered, I of their quarrel may be on terms beneficial to both presented to my audiences, together with the whole belligerents in the end, as well as advantageous to the logical process through which, somewhat reluctantly, cause of freedom and civilization throughout the against strong prepossessions, I had attained them- | world. my countrymen must satisfy themselves. I will merely observe of "Haven's" statements relative to unite patriotically to develope the magnificent resourthe recognition and protection afforded, and in- ces of our own country-to moderate the violence of tended from its inception to be afforded, by the parties-to cultivate kindly feelings with all our fel-Federal Constitution to Slavery, loaded as my table. low subjects-to push our present opportunity to the at this moment, is with American authorities on this very utmost—to direct the stream of emigration by subject, and knowing, as I do, the freely expressed all lawful means toward the fertile solitudes of our sentiments thereon of the most prominent men of own land-to unite more closely with our sister nearly all political parties in the United States-1 | colonies to enhance the common weal-to cherish the will merely observe, I admire my friend's courage and sentiment and principle of loyalty to the British power in assertion; but cannot compliment him on Crown, now more than ever dear to us, and which is the accuracy of his information, at least, on this head, nor upon the keenness of his analytical razor, nor freedom that pervades the glorious British Empire. upon his dexterity in logical hair splitting.

general insurrection for thirteen months, England | weekly through the pages of the INTELLIGENCER, there would recognize her independence." I gave no such is no danger that their loyalty will lose either its inopinion. I made no such supposition. The gentle- telligence or its fervour by the criticism of the reman is wholly mistaken. The opinion I suggested viewer or the speculations or opinions of the lecwhich I should like to have seen discussed in the national revolt, with a regularly administered gov- Rothsay Station on the evening of the 24th ult., by ernment, for thirteen months, would the American government, in such a case, recognize Ireland's right to a place in the family circle of independent nations? that I hope will be baptized soon. The interest at five sixths of their raw material—if, at the same time, the ports of Ireland were closed to regular commerce by a blockade, for months, notoriously inefficient, yet sufficiently vexatious to interrupt the needful and sufficient transit of so bulky an article as cotton,

W. H. Seward, General Cass and Francis Meagher.

Again, "Haven" in two paragraphs, numbered five and seven respectively, in the second half of his mediately connected with the issues of the war. In one paragraph I am made to say. "If the Rebel States are brought back into the Union, slavery would be made a matter of compromise as before"in the other, that if the Rebels are subdued their slaves will be freed, and the Rebels will emigrate. The positions I took on these points were the following :- Firstly, if the Federal arms should be speedily and decisively successful, and the Cotton States, Government almost en masse, the seceded States would at once resume all their former rights under the Constitution, the right of protection to their slave property among the rest. Then, in order to conthe Union than out of it, further guarantees would be given to slavery, such as the adoption of the Crit-Union would be but another phrase for slavery consolidation, perhaps extension also. Secondly, I observed if the Southern States fight with the desperation and courage one might expect from their race under their circumstances, yet unavailingly fight, and the tide of Federal conquest, preceded or accompanied by the horrors of a slave insurrection, should roll over every State, Country and Town in which pation thus obtained, and a ruthless and vindictive confiscation following in the train, the cotton culture perishes from those states to reappear chiefly with Coolie cultivation in India, Australia and the British West Indies-a result immediately injurious to this case, too, I deemed it not improbable that the their bereavement with becoming resignation. Britain, but ultimately of amazing advantage. In most intelligent of the Southern whites, intensely hating the rule forced upon them by brute strength, cherishing an unappeasable wrath against their Northern conquerors, would repair to the temperate and enrich by their energy and skill.

There is another paragraph, referring to the possiility of our future annexation to the United States. in which my reviewer, by quoting from my first lecture, would seem, despite the disclaimer of a succeedng paragraph, to represent me as favouring such annexation in the contingency of Jonathan's divorce from his black wife. Assuredly nothing can be further from my hopes and wishes than such annexation -at war as much with the dictates of my judgment as my first lecture. In that first lecture, I shewed that in the Federal compact a distinct and well-understood the Federal Government so long as one slave state should remain within the Union—that the peace, and perhaps the continued existence of the Union depended Union-that such attempts on the part of the South ntensified the hostility of the North, and rendered it more reckless in its measures and purposes against the offensive institutions—that the conflict was irrepressible—that in view of this conjuncture two courses

the nom de plume of the Rev. Mr. Daniel, an American citizen, a native of one of the Northern States, nied by a well-considered plan of gradual emancipa-

Meanwhile, it is our duty as Colonial Britons, to

I am happy to find myself in accord with you on I turn, however, from "Haven's" arguments to all other topics, dear Brother McLeod, if I rightly his misapprehension of my meaning. In his second critique upon my lecture he says. "The lecturer gave it as his opinion that if Ireland should sustain a Brunswick, and that while you commune with them

Our columns contained last week the sad announcement of the Railway accident which occurred at which two young and valuable lives were lost, and several others severely injured. A searching inves-Second, if the United States had four millions of tigation into all the particulars of this melancholy people dependant for existence upon the Cotton tragedy has since taken place, and a jury of sworn men have returned a verdict exonerating the employees on the trains and all persons from blame. We have carefully read the evidence as reported veraccording to the requirements of international law, batim by Mr. S. J. Armstrong for the Morning News, and it seems to have been one of those inexplicable occurrences sometimes marking God's providence, powerful as that of Great Britain, would the United | which after they have occurred look as though they States raise that blockade?" I expressed a wish for might have been easily avoided, and yet no special an opinion upon these points from Herace Greely, carelessness or neglect can be fastened on any one concerned. We believe that accidents of this kind do sometimes occur, the causes of which are inexplicasecond critique, represents me as putting forth con- ble, and for which no blame ought in justice to be attradictory views relative to the fate of slavery as im- tached to any body. They are episodes in divine providence, the cause and design of which are only understood by infinite wisdom.

The suddenness of the deaths occurred by this accident conveys to us all a startling lesson. In the midst of life we are in death. At the very moment least expected, and from a quarter where danger is least conceived, the shaft may come that will smite ielding to despondency, should submit to the Federal us down with a single blow, and earry sorrow and grief into the homes and hearts of surviving friends. In the death of the esteemed and amiable young lady whose life was so suddenly cut short by this fince the slave states that they would fare better in accident, there is something peculiarly solemn and instructive. We well remember the young lad whose early death we deplore. We call to mind as we expand at will. And thus the restoration of the write his sprightly appearance; and his cheerful countenance is familiar to our memory, as our thoughts recur to the Sabbaths, some three or four years ago, when we saw him led by the hand of his now sorrowing mother, to the house of God. By his death what a flood of grief is let in upon that widowed mother's heart. His early grave not only contains his lifeless remains, but in that grave are buried the hopes, the expectations, and the joys that welled up in his mother's heart in relation to the future of her dear and only child. We deeply sympathize with her and all the bereaved ones. May God bind up their wounded hearts, and give them grace to bear

We cannot omit expressing in our remarks on this sad tragedy our utter disapprobation of the heartless and inhuman course pursued in relation to it by a Southern British Colonies which they would aid to portion of the press. It seems as though this melancholy accident and the death of the young and innocent victims were hailed with joy, because it afforded them a new and timely pretext for venting their spleen in relation to Railway management. We allude to the Freeman, and the Empire. No law supposes a man guilty until he is proved so. And we all know that sad accidents do sometimes occur without carelessness on the part of any body. Was with the sentiments of my heart. A very few words it human, or just, or manly, to seek to stir up public will explain the true bearing of the quotation from | indignation against the parties in charge of the train, or the Commissioners, or the Government, or any on the question of slavery—a compromise which recognized and protected slavery with all the power of mismanagement, if & y existed, was discovered. The motives of these journals are too transparent not to be discovered. The men in charge of the wood train, perhaps the continued existence of the Union depended upon the scrupulous observance of the legal and constitutional rights, both in their letter and their spirit, innocent, their feelings would be sufficiently pained will be like their fellows. If a man is found in a bar room, the presumption is that he tipples. If he is the subject will be allowed in our columns. [Ed.]

Stitutional rights both in their letter and their spirit, secured by that compromise—that the rapid increase of free states, largely by European emigration, and the subject will be allowed in our columns. [Ed.]

St. John, March 6th, 1862.

St. John, March 6th, 1862.

Dear Brother McLeod—I crave permission to knaves, the presumption is that he is one too: if the subject will be allowed in our columns. [Ed.]

St. John, March 6th, 1862.

Dear Brother McLeod—I crave permission to upon slavery, and the increasing unwillingness of the upon slavery, and the increasing unwillingness of the upon slavery, and the increase of civilization, rendered such observations are in the subject will be allowed in our columns. [Ed.]

St. John, March 6th, 1862.

Dear Brother McLeod—I crave permission to upon slavery, and the increasing unwillingness of the upon slavery, and the increase of civilization, rendered such observations are increase. In the subject will be allowed in our columns. [Ed.]

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St. John, March 6th, 1862.

Dear Brother McLeod—I crave permission to upon slavery, and the increase of civilization, rendered such observations are upon slavery. In their letter and their spirit, their letter and their spirit, their dearent, without the public press howling the secured by that compromise—that the rapid increase of civilization, and their spirit, their dearent in their spirit, and their spirit, an free states to abide by the stipulations and observe the spirit of the Federal compromise, drove the South to high-handed attempts to strengthen itself within the zealous guardians of human life than any others; for scores and hundreds may be slain every year by the rum traffic, and yet no howl of indignation is raised by either, while the former especially maintains and defends the business as a useful and necessary part were open to the Northern people, involving no blood-shed. Firstly, a courteous proposal to the South to of commerce. We think if the Government wou

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