

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 8, 1864.

FAREWELL TO THE OLD YEAR.

Any thing which makes us fully conscious of the rapid flight of time induces solemn impressions, even in the most thoughtless minds.

are the things which that Saviour came from heaven to earth to tell you are not pleasing to your Heavenly Father. Read on to the end of the chapter.

CLOSET PRAYER.

It is assumed, without argument, that Christians pray in secret. It is also assumed that secret prayer is the duty of every one who is capable of comprehending the divine existence.

SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY.

We hear much, from time to time, calculated to encourage all good men, in relation to the support of the ministry. The feeling is becoming general, we hope, that a man who is called, qualified, and devotes himself wholly to the ministry, deserves, and should receive from the people he serves, a liberal support.

1. Prayer is essential to spiritual life. There can be no vitality of soul without communion with God, and communion with God involves the going forth of our hearts towards Him, as well as the descent of the Holy Spirit upon us.

2. There is no merit in prayer. The beggar merits nothing because he comes daily to our door for help. It would be rank impertinence should he insist upon relief on this ground.

3. Faith is the essence of prayer. Prayer is not well arranged words, the bent knees, closed eyes, the bowed head, solemn tones, and the like.

4. Stated seasons for private prayer are of importance. As God has constituted us, order is requisite to full success in useful occupations.

5. It is well to have a closet or place for private prayer. Not to press our Lord's direction in the sermon on the mount, "Thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet," it teaches us that retirement is to be sought when we desire personal intercourse with our Heavenly Father.

6. Secret prayer should not be confined to stated seasons or to the closet. It is our privilege to have

the work of God at all times. Some of the most profitable prayers ever offered have been ejaculations. Uttered from a sense of want, unlogged by the formalities of devotional exercises, unburied with faith, they have entered the ear of God, and he has verified his promise: "Before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

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Moreover, experience has also demonstrated that people who pay liberally for the support of the ministry are usually well served. They hear good preaching, and have good pastoral labor.

From the very interesting article on religious intelligence, in the December number of the British Messenger, we select the following:

"THE YEAR OF GRACE." The writer has recently visited the chief scenes of that Ulster revival and "year of grace," the tidings brought back from which told so powerfully in the autumn and winter of 1863 in rousing London Christians to increased holiness of life, strong faith in the Holy Spirit, and a present blessing of the Holy Spirit, and consequent heavenly consolation.

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have not believed in vain; they have proved by their love to their fellow-sinner, that they have themselves understood the sinner of Jesus. A. D. O.

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TENDER MERCIES OF SLAVERY.

Forty years ago a wealthy planter came from Florida or Louisiana to reside in Washington for a time, bringing with him a son, a fine, manly boy of thirteen or fourteen. At the levees of his father, which were then fashionable, he received the caresses of the ladies and the encouragement of the gentlemen.

Among the acquaintances formed at this time was a gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the chief clerk of a bureau, who was the father of a girl yet in her teens, lovable in character, and well educated.

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lured, a pistol was put to his face, and he was ironed by Ligot Parr; others were standing by, but did not know him; he was then confined in the room, where he remained an hour; Parr and Robinson went to him, and asking him if he was cold, conducted him to the cabin. Four or five passengers were in the cabin; the chief mate, who was wounded in the right knee, and his father's position naturally elicited. Of his family none accompanied his father, besides this son, in his visits to Washington.

In due course of time the boy, whom his father's affection was evidently contrived, was sent North, and was there educated, graduating at Harvard, and Yale, with an honorable standing in his class. On his return to this city he avowed a love for the North, acquired during his college life, which was not restrained in its expression by his father, who fostered and encouraged it zealously, and readily consented to his permanent residence there.

Among the acquaintances formed at this time was a gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the chief clerk of a bureau, who was the father of a girl yet in her teens, lovable in character, and well educated.

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