

The Religious Intelligencer.

AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

Rev. J. McLEOD.]

"THAT GOD

IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."

Peter.

[Editor and Proprietor,

Vol. XVI.—No. 29.

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1869.

Whole No. 569.

ALBION HOUSE.

The Intelligencer.

JULY 1, 1869.

NEW GOODS,

PER STEAMSHIPS "DORIAN,"

FROM GLASGOW,

AND "UNITED KINGDOM,"

FROM LIVERPOOL.

One hundred cases and bales of DRY GOODS, being received, which completes the Stock for this season, comprising,—

A LARGE AND WELL-SELECTED

STOCK OF

NEW AND FASHIONABLE

GOODS.

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS.

FANCY

AND

STAPLE DRY GOODS,

TO WHICH

WE RESPECTFULLY INVITE

THE

ATTENTION OF PURCHASERS,

JOHN THOMAS.

Fredericton, July 1, 1869.

MAY 1869.

THOMAS LOGAN,

Successor to

SHERATON & Co.,

FREDERICTON,

HAS NOW COMPLETED HIS SPRING STOCK OF

DRY GOODS,

CONSISTING OF

DRESS GOODS,

Prints, Cottons,

Sheetings, Table Linens,

CARPETINGS,

Lace Curtains, Oil Cloths,

GLOVES,

HOSIERY, RIBBONS,

Silks and Velvets,

LACE GOODS,

Parasols,

&c., &c., &c.

NEW BRUNSWICK WARPS.

An inspection is respectfully solicited.

THOMAS LOGAN,

Queen Street.

Fredericton, May 27, 1869.

OUTLIVED USEFULNESS.

Not long since, a good-looking man in middle life, came to our door asking for 'the minister.' When informed that he was out of town, he seemed disappointed and anxious. On being questioned as to his business, he replied: 'I have lost my mother, and as this place used to be her home, and my father lies here, we have come to lay her beside him.'

Our hearts rose in sympathy, and we said, 'You have met with a great loss.'

'Well—yes,' replied the strong man with hesitancy, 'a mother is a great loss in general; but our mother has outlived her usefulness; she was in her second childhood, and her mind was as weak as her body so that she was no comfort to herself, and was a burden to everybody. There were seven of us, sons and daughters; and as we could not find anybody who was willing to board her, we agreed to keep her among us year about. But I've had more than my share of her, for she was too feeble to be moved when my time was out; and that was more than three months before her death. But then she was a good mother in her day and toiled very hard to bring us up.'

Without looking at the face of the heartless man, we directed him to the house of a neighboring pastor, and returned to our nursery. We gazed on the merry little faces which smiled or grew sad in imitation of ours—those little ones to whose ear no word in our language is half so sweet as 'Mother,' and we wondered if that day could ever come when they would say of us, 'She has outlived her usefulness—she is no comfort to herself and a burden to everybody else!'

We had before that day should dawn, we might be taken to our rest. God forbid that we should outlive the love of our children! Rather let us die while our hearts are a part of their own, than our grave may be watered with their tears, and our love linked with their hope of heaven.

When the bell tolled for the mother's funeral, we went to the sanctuary to pay our only token of respect for the aged stranger; for we felt, that we could give her memory a tear, even though her own children had none to shed.

'She was a good mother in her day, and toiled hard to bring us all up—she was no comfort to herself, and a burden to everybody else! These cruel heartless words rang in our ears as we saw the coffin borne up the aisle. The bell tolled long and loud, until its iron tongue had chronicled the loss of the town mother. One—two—three—four—five. How clearly and almost merrily each stroke told of her once peaceful slumber on her mother's bosom, and of her seat at night fall on her weary father's knees. Six—seven—eight—nine—ten—rang out the tale of her sports upon the green sward, in the meadow and by the brook. Eleven—twelve—thirteen—fourteen—fifteen, spoke more gravely of school days, and little household joys and cares. Sixteen—seventeen—eighteen, sounded out the enraptured visions of maidenhood, and the dreams of early love. Nineteen brought us to the happy bride. Twenty spoke of the young mother, whose heart was fast to bursting with the new strong love which God had awakened in her bosom. And then stroke after stroke told of her early womanhood—of the love and care, and hopes and toils through which she passed during these long years, till fifty rang out harsh and loud. From that to sixty, each stroke told of the warm-hearted mother and grand mother, living over again her own joys and sorrows in those of her children and her children's children. Every family of all the group wanted grandmother then, and the only strife was, who would secure the prize; but hark! the bell tolls on!

Seventy—seventy-one—two—three—four—she began to grow feeble, requires more care, is not always perfectly patient or satisfied; she goes from one child's house to another, so that no one place seems like home. She murmurs in plaintive tones, and after all her toil and weariness, it is hard she cannot be allowed a home to die in; that she must be sent, rather than invited, from house to house. Eighty—eighty-one—two—three—four—she is now a second child—now she has outlived her usefulness, she has now ceased to be a comfort to herself or anybody; that is, she has ceased to be profitable to her earth-craving and money-grasping children.

Now sounds out, reverberating through our lovely forests, and echoing back from our hill of the dead,' Eighty-nine. There she now lies in the coffin cold, and still—she makes no trouble now, demands no love, no soft words, no tender little offices. A look of patient endurance, we fancied also an expression of grief for unrequited love sat on her marble features. Her children were there, clad in weeds of woe, and in an irony we remembered the strong man's words, 'She was a good mother in her day.'

When the bell ceased tolling, the strange minister rose in the pulpit. His form was very erect, and his voice strong, but his hair was silvery white. He read several passages of Scripture expressive of God's compassion to feeble man, and especially of his tenderness when grey hairs are on him, and his strength faileth. He then made some touching remarks on human frailty, and of dependence on God, urging all present to make their peace with their Master while in health, that they might claim his promises when hearts and flesh should fail them. 'Then,' he said, 'the eternal God shall be thy refuge, and beneath thee shall be thy everlasting arms. Lending over the desk, and gazing intently on the coffin form before him, he then said reverently, 'From a little child, I have honored the aged, but never till the grey hairs covered my own head, did I know truly how much love and sympathy this class have a right to demand of their fellow creatures. 'Our mother,' he added most tenderly, 'who now lies in death before us, was a stranger to me, as are all these, her descendants. All I know of her is what her son has told me to-day—that she was brought to this town from afar, sixty-nine years ago, a happy bride—that here she passed most of her life, toiling as only mothers ever have strength to toil, until she has reared a large family of children—that she left her home here, clad in the weeds of widowhood, to dwell among her children—and that till health and vigor left her, she lived for you her descendants.'

You who together have shared her love and her care, know how well you have requited her. God forbid that conscience should accuse you of ingratitude or murmuring, on account of the care she has been to you of late. When you go back

to your homes, be careful of your words and your examples before your own children, for the fruit of your own doing you shall surely reap from them when you yourselves totter on the brink of the grave. I entreat you as a friend, as one who has himself entered 'the evening of life,' that you may never say in the presence of your families nor of heaven, 'Our mother has outlived her usefulness, she was a burden to us.' Never, never; a mother cannot live so long as that! No! when she can no longer labor for her children nor yet care for herself, she can fall like a precious weight on their bosoms, and call forth by her helplessness all the noble, generous feelings of their natures.'

Adieu, then, poor toil-worn mother, there are no more sleepless nights, no more days of pain for thee. Undying vigor and everlasting usefulness, are part of the inheritance of the redeemed. Feeble as thou wert on earth, thou wilt be no burden on the bosom of Infinite Love, but there shalt thou find thy longed for rest, and receive glorious sympathy from Jesus and his ransomed fold.

THE ALMOST CHRISTIAN.

How often in seasons of revival when the kingdom of God has come nigh, and many are pressing into it, have we seen the young man halting awhile in his giddy career of folly and sin, to listen at the doors of the sanctuary, while the warning voice of the preacher proclaimed:—'Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'

'Behold, now is the accepted time,' he feels an interest in these things, perhaps that he has never felt before. He is almost persuaded to be a Christian. But not being quite ready—'He fails to convert.'

Much, very much, in regard to such failures, even to depend upon education and previous habits of life.

I recall an instance of a young man among my early acquaintances, who was distinguished for strength, vigor, and exuberant spirits. As he went from home and mingled with the world, he gradually acquired the habit of drinking. Many years went by, and finally the habit grew so strong upon him that he was given up for lost. A reform in him seemed not to be expected. But just at this time the city where he lived was visited by a powerful revival, in which all classes and ages were remarkably awakened to the consideration of their spiritual condition; and of the number it rich to our surprise, was our friend, M.

Is it possible, we asked ourselves that the Spirit of God is taking hold of that man? Can he become a Christian? With trembling and fear we fondly indulged the hope that he might. Time and again he put himself in our way, and engaged us in religious conversation. He seemed deeply convicted, and to human view thoroughly sensible of his lost and undone condition. The way of life was set clearly before him, and it seemed at every interview, that the next week he would introduce him rejoicing in the hope of mercy and the forgiveness of sin. But as I met him from time to time, I found he made no progress. I began to fear that there was some cause for this, that did not appear on the surface, and questioned him closely in regard to his previous habits. I had previously urged upon him the absolute necessity of at once and forever abandoning liquor, and supposed he had done so. But I was mistaken. 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