

# 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

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HOW IT TURNS OUT DIFFERENTLY.

A vessel at sea is sometimes caught in the cap of a storm, lurches heavily upon her side, until she dips her spars in the brine, and cannot right herself by parting with her yards and mast, which she yields a prey to the tempest. It is no inapt illustration of the sorrows which often burst over the Christian, in the full expansion of his prosperity, before he can reef the afflictions too impatiently spread before the gale. In the first cut so severe grief he feels as he were suddenly lost, when, in reality, he is but thrown from his balance. In the first confusion of his spirit, he utters impudent words at the Providence which has caught him up, and tosses him fiercely in the fury of the whirlwind. It is in the sober afterthought that he remembers the years of the right hand of the Most High, and in pentent retraction exclaims, "This is my infirmity! What child of God has not recalled, with pious grief, his hasty impeachment of Divine Providence, with heavy confession, in the issue, that 'God's thoughts are not his thoughts'?" The simple in heart, now to be recorded, will afford a double commentary upon this text.

That fatal scourge of the young, the scarlet fever, had laid its iron grip upon a bright boy of eight summers. A dark mahogany band around the throat evinced the fierceness of the assault under which the helpless victim was throttled. The last sad offices of religion were soon re-enacted at little Bonnie's grave, and then came the unavailing service of condolence with the distracted mother. Every topic of conversation was exhausted. Acknowledging God's right to reclaim the life he had given, as a mere act of sovereignty, and freely confessing to its righteousness, as an act simply of retributive justice, she could see no love in the blight that had fallen upon her beautiful boy. In that hour of turbulence her faith could not accept the discipline through which our heavenly Father discloses the wisdom of his love. When urged to wait a little upon God for the interpretation of his purpose, who so often veils his richest blessings under this disguise, the bruised heart could find no comfort in what was so contingent, and Rachel wept and refused to be comforted.

At length, to put the case as concretely as possible, it was suggested "What if the Lord should, through this bereavement, win your husband himself? Is he not more than ten sons?" The drooping eye sparkled like the diamond in the dew of its own tears, as she replied: "Ah, if it could be so! I could see infinite love in that, and kneel with thanksgiving upon the grave of my child, through whom the father was begotten unto God!" Madam, God makes no bargains," was the response; "but trust him with a generous submission, whose promise is: At evening time it shall be light."

It was only an hypothesis uttered to show how God could bring good out of evil, and with no expectation of its being an unconscious prophecy.

Three weeks later, like Nicodemus of old, under the cover of darkness, came this husband to the pastor's study. He was a quiet man, moving softly upon his own path, and jostling against no one. Singularly reticent and undemonstrative, and to him who reads all hearts. With a faint smile playing around his lips, such as can be seen only with diffidence in breaking through its reserve, he said, "I come to tell you that I have found Christ, to whom I have given up my heart."

Instantly the exclamation burst from me: "Have you told your wife?"

"No," was the reply, "only God knows it, and you."

For the moment I could think of no one but the poor sufferer whom, a few days before I had sought, hypothetically, to console. Had it then turned out so differently with her who could see nothing but frowns upon the Father's face, when beneath it lay this great joy, which was soon to drink up all her bitter grief? But recollecting the errand of my visitor, I begged him to relate the whole story of his conversion.

"Sir," he began, "do you remember saying some months ago, in a sermon, that God often used affliction as a means by which to draw sinners to himself? In my folly I thought how ill an experiment it would be with me, that if the Almighty should in that way, challenge to a measurement of will against will, it would be found that something besides coercion was necessary to subdue me into a Christian. But somehow, when little Dennis died, it turned out very differently. All this haughty pride was subdued. Instead of this rebellion, I felt strangely drawn to that Great Being who had laid upon me this stroke. I have been praying to him ever since, and now I hope that I am at peace with him through the merits of his Son."

A long evening was spent in conversation with him, with the most satisfactory conviction that old things had passed away, and that he was a new creature in Christ Jesus."

The next day I met, as usual, the Bible class of ladies, and there, in deep mourning, sat the bereaved mother, with the same dark shadow of grief resting upon her quiet face. I scanned it narrowly, but there was no light that I could discover breaking in under the edges of that cloud. She is ignorant yet, I said to myself, of the Lord's great love for her. At the close of the exercise she mingled with the throng and passed beyond the door. I knew then that I would be the bearer to her of great joy. Following, with rapid steps, I overtook her, fortunately alone. "Mrs. H. —, has your husband told you anything?"

A deadly pall spread over a cheek already pale, while the hand passed instinctively to hold the throbbing heart: "Is there any new sorrow for me to bear?"

Reader, have you ever felt how the heart of a wounded bird beats against the hand of its captor? So was this poor dove trembling with fear in the hand of God; and yet he was her Father, though she knew it not.

"No, my dear madam, not sorrow, but joy," I rejoined. "Do you remember telling me how you could kneel at Bonnie's grave, and thank God for his infinite love in taking him away?"

"Yes, perfectly well," she answered.

"Go home then and tell your husband to erect this night the family altar, and as you kneel by his side, praise him who has turned your mour-

SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1869.

DEATH & CO.,  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN SPIRITS,  
WINE AND MALT LIQUORS,

Take this opportunity of informing their friends that they continue the trade of Drunks, Bankrupts, Beggars, and Maniacs, on the most reasonable terms, at the shortest notice.

The subscribers return their sincere thanks to numerous customers, and to all the tipping part of the community, for the extensive patronage they now receive; and they hope that the many proofs that are now to be found of the success in the above line of business will secure to them the increased support of drunks and little drop drunks, as well as forever silence the advocates of total abstinence societies, those bitter enemies of their long established and popular trade.

Death & Co. beg leave to assure the public that the articles in which they deal are the best and most pleasant poisons in the world; and they will warrant them certain death in every case where the individual perverse in the use of them.

Death & Co. being under obligations to send

more persons to the poor house, the prison, the gallows and the grave yard than any other firm; and they will also do it with the greatest possible despatch. To accomplish these desirable ends it is only necessary for the individuals to take a glass occasionally, till he feels that quantity insufficient to gratify the craving appetite which it will soon create; and when this runs, whiskey, gin, brandy, wine, cider, ale or porter, appetite is formed, the persons are then prepared to brave temporal and eternal misery for the sake of another glass.

In short, Death & Co. will spare no pains or expense to bring the wives and children of their customers to misery, temporal and eternal, and drive to delirium and death as many as the public good may require. They are constantly receiving new supplies of poisonous liquids, which they will sell by the glass, the bottle, the barrel or hogshead.

For the accommodation of their numerous customers, and for the despatch of their increasing business, Death & Co. have appointed a sufficient number of active agents, who are stationed at convenient distances in splendid palaces, beer shops, and public houses. These palaces, beer shops, and public houses and groceries may be known by the squarish, flat, obscure or misshapen nature of the customers who congregate around them, as well as by the odors of the poisons continually polluting the air around.

Satisfactory references can be given to county jails, houses of correction, lunatic asylums, hospitals, work houses, insolvent debtors' courts, the court of bankruptcy, or the wives and families of those whom Death & Co. have had the happiness to make drunkards.

N. B.—Death & Co. beg leave to caution all tipplers and drunk drivers from giving any heed to their wives, children, friends, or any advocates of total abstinence societies, as these parties are enemies to his soul and body destroying business.

Gentlemen, by calling on our agents, as

tar as practicable, his substantial assistance,

He is full of care for his fellow beings. He does not, like Cain, say, "Am I my brother's keeper?" He is much like Paul, who had it in his heart to live and die with his brethren. He realizes that the joy of one is the joy of himself, and the joy of all the heavenly family. Over the woes of his fellow beings he resembles Jesus weeping on Olivet over the impending destruction of gainsaying Jerusalem. He has the spirit which rejoices with the joyous and weeps with the weeping. Seeing the world lying in sin, and remembering the pit from which his feet were taken, his heart's desire is that they might be saved. He weeps because they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.

Such a creature cannot be idle. There is an inward life animating his soul. There is a fountain gushing from his heart in streams of active beneficence. The sick, the suffering, the poor, the weak, the fainting, the tempted, the erring, the degraded—every form of human need—receive his attention, his sympathy, his prayers, his counsels, and, as far as practicable, his substantial assistance.

He is active in the interests of the family circle to which he belongs—active in the neighborhood

in which he resides, and to the concerns of his

church, in society, in political interests. He is alive, not from carnal ambition, nor for self interest, not from any human spring of action, but because he is baptized with the spirit of Him who went about doing good!

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