

Christian

A Family Newspaper—Devoted to



Visitor.

Religious and General Intelligence.

GEO. W. DAY, Proprietor.

“BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED.”—ST. PAUL.

{Rev. E. D. VERY, Editor.

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ART THOU A MOTHER?

Art thou a mother? Do thine eyes,
With transport overflow,
To see thine olive-plants arise,
And round thy table grow?
It is in truth a lovely sight,
May it thy bosom fill
With fond enjoyment and delight,
And cheer thy dwelling still!

Art thou a mother? Ever bear
This solemn truth in mind;
That thou must for their spirits care,
Which are by nature blind.
Tis right to tend their mortal frames,
All their wants supply;
But, ah, their souls have stronger claims,
For these shall never die.

Art thou a mother? Early teach
Their infant lips to pray
To Him, who 'midst the faltering speech,
Knows all they wish to say.
Oh! bring them to the Cross betimes,
For if the Lord's white young,
Each life shall then be free from crimes,
And from deceit each tongue.

Art thou a mother? Daily draw
(As thou must still impart)
New lessons from God's holy law,
To purify thy heart.
Then as they grow in sense and age
Thy little ones shall see
The precepts of the sacred page
Exemplified in thee!

Art thou a mother? Watch and fear
To be thyself deceived:
An error once committed here
Can never be retrieved.
The seed that's on the billows tost
May on some shore be thrown;
But if a human soul be lost
It is for ever gone!

Europe not the World.

Some people speak of Europe and America as if they constituted the world—but how short, how far short of the wide, wide field all over which the hearts of men throbbing! Far more than half the world never heard Napoleon's name far more than half the world neither know nor care what are the relations of our potentates; far more than half the world could not tell you whether Europe is in one country or many.—We are not a quarter of the world's population; and yet because we have received from christianity elements of greatness that lifts us above our fellows, we are ready to regard them as but distant retainers of the human family, we only constituting its circle. From the soil of Asia man was formed, in Asia he had his Eden, on a hill in Asia rested the ark that saved him in the day of ruins, in Asia he spent his early years, in Asia he has always had his chief dwelling, and on Asia dropped the blood that bought his ransom. The eye that watches all the world has ever seen in Asia far most hearts beating, far most mothers rejoicing over their newly-born far most houses mourning for their dead. If any section of the earth might call itself the world, Asia would be the world; Europe does not contain half so many human hearts.

Asia has the largest assemblage of human hearts; thither, then, should the human heart most affectionately turn. The darkness of Asia covers more hearts than that of all the world beside, and its sunrise will gladden more. While Asia is alien from Christ, more than half the world is far away; but when Asia shall be brought nigh, it will indeed be the fulness of the Gentiles. Asia is Satan's strong hold, and wide and proud is the empire over which he boasts. The lessons of the past, the movements of the present, and the indication of the future, all unite in pointing us, for the key of Asia, to Hindostan. Let it be won to Christ, and it

will win the tribe surrounding. And wonderful providence! the whole of that vast land, from Himalaya to Cape Comorin, and from the Indus to the Bruhmapoorta, is open to christianity!—Head of God's ransomed church! Why has thou placed before thy people this yawning door, through which we hear, coming from the valley and shadow of death, the wail of so many souls?

What, then, is India? The region which, of all upon earth, has most affected the history and the habits of every other; the region to whose influence are traceable the most striking characteristics of ancient civilization, the most noble feats of moderate enterprise; the region whence sprang the creeds that now possess the largest number of souls; the region that offers the medium for transmitting moral influence throughout Asia; the region that embraces in her arms a host of human hearts, comprising, at least, one out of every six that beat, and holding them up to the eye of christian pity, tells her they are all open to her approach, and susceptible of her action.

Oh that God would give his church a heart large enough to feel the sublimity of this call! Think, christians; think on the state of the world! Think not of the gospel as already known everywhere! Feel, Oh feel, when you pray, that one-half of your brethren never, never heard of your Redeemer! Bone are they of your bone, flesh of your flesh, conflicting, sighing, bending to the grave, like you; but crown for their conflicts, comforter in their sighs, hope in their grave, they see none. Think of every land where Satan has his seat, and give to them all a part in our prayer! But Oh think long on the land where the throne, whose sway you love, has heathen subjects outnumbering sevenfold the christians of the British isles!—Think long, long on the fact, “I belong to an empire where seven to one name not the Name that is life to me!” Think that yonder, under the rule of your own Queen, a full sixth of Adam's children dwell! Take a little leisure, and say, “Of every six infants, one first sees the light there: what loves unite their circle! Of every six widows, one is lamenting there: what consolations will soothe her? Of every six orphan girls, one is wandering there: what charities will protect her? Of every six wounded consciences, one is trembling there: what balm, what physician does it know? Of every six men that die, one is departing there; what shore is in his eye?”—*English Wesleyan Magazine.*

Some of your duties to your Minister.

Add not to his difficulties. He has his trials as a man; and he has his trials as a Christian; and in addition to both these, he has trials peculiar to his office. Could he have foreseen all at the beginning, he would have been disheartened at the entrance; but his work is, like John's little book, a bitter sweet, and the sweet comes first. You find it hard enough to manage one temper; what must be the task of governing a multitude, including every diversity! After the engagement of years he would yield to many a temptation to withdraw, but that necessity is laid upon him. Never successful according to his wishes, and sometimes apparently useless, he is often ready to lay down his commission at his Master's feet; to say, “I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought and in vain.” Bound to engage at the times appointed, and knowing what is expected from him; in his perplexity arising from choice of subjects, in his barrenness of thought, in his unfitness of feeling, in the study which is a weariness to the flesh, and the exhaustion of spirits gendered by intense application, his

heart knoweth his own bitterness. Death worketh in him, but life in you. Encourage him. Welcome his instructions. Yield to his reproofs. Respect that authority which he has received, not for destruction, but edification.—“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you.”

A minister must be very mean spirited, if he regards his salary as alms or benefactions from his people. What they give, they more than receive back in services; and “the labourer is worthy of his hire.” Has not God ordained, that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel? And is not this law founded in equity and justice? Would not the same talents the man devotes to the service of the sanctuary provide for himself and his family, if employed in secular concerns? This is a delicate point for a minister to handle; and he surely would never bring it forward if he could do justice to the part of the subject before us without it.—But he will resign it as soon as possible; and leave it in the words the Holy Ghost teacheth. Let congregations compare themselves with it, and especially those individuals in them who pay more annually to the most menial of their attendants than to the shepherd of their souls.

“Let him,” says the Apostle, “be with you without fear.” And again: “Know them that labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.” He means not only in reward of their work, but in aid of it; for unless you magnify his office, you are not likely to be impressed by it; and as your regard for the preacher declines, so will you profit by him. Your relation to him is such, that if he is degraded, you are disgraced in him; and if he is honoured you share in his respectability. Ministers are men; and “the best of men are but men at the best.” You are not required to approve of their infirmities, or even to be ignorant of them; but surely you will not be suspicious; you will not invite or welcome reflection and insinuation; nor, like too many, speak of him; or suffer him to be spoken of, before children and servants and strangers with a levity and freedom far from being adapted to increase or preserve esteem and respect. You will consider his character not only as forming his crown, but as essential to his acceptance and success. “Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation.”—*Jay.*

Men of Hot Hearts.

We want men of hot hearts to tell us of the love of Christ, said a converted Chinese. It is as true in America as in China, that such men are needed. But is there not a fearful deficiency of such hearts? Are there not cold hearts in great numbers of the pulpits every Sabbath?—O, I fear all the exercises are sometimes conducted without religious heat sufficient to melt a moral snow-flake. Of many preachers, it may be affirmed they are cold, cold, very cold. A mere round of services in the sanctuary, does not meet the wants of the hearers. They need to be aroused and must be, by the preacher, or they will sleep. He that enters the pulpit at this day, depending on his audience for inspiration, will be a dull preacher. Christ's ambassadors should present themselves before the people prepared to create an interest. The sanctuary ought to be known as the place where men are made to feel. Give us light—give us also

heat. Enough, and more than enough have we had of that preaching which as cold is as moon-beams.

To secure the hot hearts needed, it is in vain to visit Germany or any other foreign country. These hearts cannot be obtained by speculations on “new divinity.” Nor will the arts of logic and rhetoric produce them. God alone can give them, and ministers must seek to him for them. Sailing around the earth, exploring foreign lands, gaining acquaintance with the wisdom of other climes and ages, seeking the highest accomplishments afforded by science and literature, are all well in their place; but preachers of the gospel should know that the duty assigned to them by the King of Zion, is to unfold the gospel, that multitudes shall be saved. For this end, they must have hot hearts.—*Pasitan.*

Missionary Reinforcement.

The various Missionary Societies in the United States contemplate sending out reinforcements to several Foreign Missionary stations during the month of October, in all about thirty Missionaries. The ship Valparaiso, which will sail from New York for Canton, about the 7th of October, will take out the Rev. Messrs. Henry F. Rankin and Joseph K. Weight, with their wives, to join the Ningpo Mission connected with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church.

The Southern Baptist Board also expect to send two Missionaries and their wives to China in the Valparaiso. The Rev. Messrs. Whidden and Goodale will go out about the same time, as well as four or six others from the Northern Baptist Board. The ship Bowditch, which will sail on the 9th of October, for Madras, will take out the following persons under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions; Rev. Cyrus T. Mills and wife, Rev. J. T. Noyes and wife, and Mr. Burnell, (printer,) wife and child, for Ceylon; Rev. J. W. Dulles and wife, and Mrs. Myren Winslow, for Madras and Dr. Shelton and wife for Madura.—*N. Y. Presbyterian.*

HUDSON BAY COMPANY.—There has been a great discussion of late in the British Parliament, on the propriety of making over the colonization on Vancouver's Island,—a valuable island on the Pacific coast, just north of Oregon, to the Hudson's Bay company,—the Company which has for so long a period carried on a vast fur trade beyond the Rocky Mountains. In the course of the discussion, Mr. Gladstone stated that, although the Company had divided seventy per cent., during the greater part of half a century on a capital nine times augmented, it had never erected a single place of worship, and had discouraged, as far as possible, those missionaries, who had attempted to propagate religion within its territories. It is further stated that this Company practices a systematic and most heartless oppression upon its employers, indicating that it can have no honorable design in view, in its attempt to secure the privilege of colonizing Vancouver's Island. It is even said that the design of the company is to perpetuate its monopolies and ill-gotten gains, by preventing a rapid settlement of that inviting spot.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AND LOSS OF PROPERTY.—NORFOLK, VA., Oct. 13th.—most destructive fire visited Wheeling at about 4 o'clock P. M., and destroyed some 14 or 15 buildings, including Philip's foundry, Hughes' planing establishment, Wingwart's carpenter shop, List's cotton factory, 10 dwelling houses, and several ships. The loss is doubtless very heavy.