

**God must give the Increase.**

What is the loftiest intellect, what the greatest literary attainment, in comparison with the agency of the Holy Spirit, in efforts for the conversion of sinners to God? What can be accomplished by the most ardent zeal and the most indefatigable diligence, without the co-operation of Jehovah Jesus? Absolutely nothing. A Paul may plant, and an Apollos may water, but God only can give the increase. "Except the Lord build the city, they labour in vain that build it." How important, then, that ministers of the gospel, and all believers, should besiege the throne of grace with earnest and persevering supplications for the divine blessing on the labours of those whose office it is to call sinners to repentance. On this subject the great and good Dr. Chalmers has left recorded the following striking and instructive thoughts:

"There is a dark and settled depravity in the human character, which maintains its gloomy and obstinate resistance to all our warnings and all our arguments. There is a spirit working in the children of disobedience which no power of human eloquence can lay. There is a covering of thick darkness upon the face of all people, a mighty influence abroad upon the world with which the Prince of the power of the air keeps his thousands and his tens of thousands under him. The minister who enters into this field of conflict may have zeal, and talents, and eloquence. His heart may be smitten with the love of the truth, and his mind be fully fraught with its arguments. Thus armed, he may come forth among his people, flushed with the mighty enterprise of turning souls from the dominion of Satan unto God. In all the hope of victory he may discharge the weapons of his warfare among them. Week after week he may reason with them out of the Scriptures. Sabbath after Sabbath he may declaim, he may demonstrate, he may put forth every expedient, he may try to win them by the free offer of the gospel; and, in the proud confidence of success, he may think that nothing can withstand him, and that the heart of every hearer must give way before the ardour of his zeal, and the power of his invincible arguments. Yes, they may admire him; but the question we have to ask is, will they be converted by him? They may even go so far as to allow that it is all very true he says. He may be their favourite preacher, and when he opens his exhortations upon them, there may be a deep and a solemn attention in every countenance. But how is the heart coming on all the while? How do these people live, and what evidence are they giving of being born again under the power of those momentary convictions which flash from the pulpit, and carry a thrilling influence along with them through the hearts of listening admirers? Have these hearers of the word become the doers of the word? Have they sunk down into the character of humble, and sanctified, and penitent, and pains-taking Christians? Where, where is the fruit? And while the preaching of Christ is all their joy, has the will of Christ become all their directions? Alas! he may look around him, and at the end of the year, after all the tumults of a sounding popularity, he may find the great bulk of them just where they were—as listless and unconcerned about the things of eternity—as obstinately alienated from God—as firmly devoted to selfish and transitory interests—as exclusively set upon the farm, and the money, and the merchandize—and, with the covering of many external decencies, to make them as fair and plausible as their neighbours around them, proving by a heart, given, with the whole tide of its affections, to the vanities of the world, that they have their full share of the wickedness which abounds in it. After all his sermons, and all his loud and passionate addresses, he finds that the power of darkness still keeps its ground among them. He is grieved to learn that all he has said has had no more effect than the foolish and the feeble lisps of infancy. He is overwhelmed by a sense of his own helplessness, and the lesson is a wholesome one. It makes him feel that the sufficiency is not in him, but in God; it makes him understand that another power must be brought to bear upon the mass of resistance which is before him; and let the man of confident and aspiring genius, who thought he was to assail the dark seats of human corruption, and to carry them by storm, let him be reduced in mortified and dependent humbleness to the expedient of the apostle; let him crave the intercessions of his people, and throw himself upon their prayers."—*Christian Intelligencer.*

**Disinterestedness of the Medical Profession.**

Was the introduction of inoculation for the small-pox a speculation? Was the discovery of the preventive power of vaccination (the labor of close, unremitting and careful research during a period of several years,) was that made or conducted with a view to personal emolument? As a matter of course, Dr. Jenner, as soon as he had completed his discovery, published it—made it free to all mankind.

When quinine was first discovered, the mode of preparing it was immediately made known. Recently when some feeble attempts were stated to have been made to obtain a patent for the use of ether, or to conceal the process of etherization, the indignation of the profession was aroused from one end of our country to the other. The money changers were driven from the temple of Humanity.

Medicine a money-making profession!—Why, one third or more of the whole practice of medical men in the city of New-York, is done without remuneration. The hospitals, the alms-houses, the dispensaries, the medical and surgical clinics, the eye infirmary, the orphan and lying-in asylums, the colored home, the institutions for the blind; in fine, all institutions of a charitable kind, so far as I know, are attended gratuitously, and many of them by some of the oldest and most eminent medical men. Nor are the out-door poor neglected. When they appeal to physicians, not for advice only, but even for services which keep us from our beds, they rarely ask in vain.

I have witnessed examples of self-denial, of steady holding fast on integrity, by scores of medical men, who, amid the pinchings of poverty, have refused to embark in schemes which would have given them wealth, had they chosen to seek it in the walks of quackery. When will the world do justice to such self-denying philanthropy?

A money-making profession! Why, the number of destitute widows and orphans of medical men became so great, that a few years since an association was formed, and is now in progress and successful operation, with a fund raised by their own contributions in New-York, to secure from destitution after their death their wives and children. It would have broken our hearts to have encountered them in our daily visits to the almshouse or asylums."—*Dr. Stevens's Address.*

**Statistics of Human Life.**

The question of the increase of human life under care and culture, is one of the most important (to be established) in its influences upon modern civilization. Dr. Stevens gives the following:—

Throughout the civilized world the duration of human life has increased, and is steadily increasing with the advancement and diffusion of medical science.

In the city of Geneva, in the 16th century, 1 individual in 25 died annually. For the 18th century, 1 in 34; at the present time, 1 in 46. With us the mortality is greater. I estimate it at 1 in 40, the proportion of childhood being larger, and childhood being the period of the greatest mortality. In the British navy, among adults, none of whom are very aged, the mortality is only about 1 in 100. Seventy years ago the mortality in the British navy was 1 in every 10. In 1808, 1 in 30; 1836, 13 8-10 among one thousand: a diminution to less than a seventh of the rate in 1770.—In the American army, with a corps of medical officers not excelled by that of any other country, the mortality is little over 1 in 300 per annum. In London, the mortality in the middle of the last century was 1 in 32. In the year 1838, the mortality was 1 in 36. I quote from the annual report of the Registrar General. Within the last twenty years the mortality in Russia has been 1 in 27; Prussia, 1 in 36; France, 1 in 53.07; Holland, 1 in 39; Belgium, 1 in 43.01; England, 1 in 53.07; Sicily, 1 in 32; Greece, 1 in 30; Philadelphia, 1 in 42.03; Boston, 1 in 45; New-York, 1 in 37.83; the emigrants have made our mortality greater than that of our sister cities; in other respects it has diminished with the advance of medical science.—These statistical statements might be multiplied at great length; but enough have been given to show conclusively the prodigious extent to which human life has been lengthened with the advance and diffusion of medical science beyond its duration in former periods, and beyond its present duration in the less enlightened countries of Europe.

**Physical Effects of Mercantile Speculation.**

The grand struggle of the multitude is excited neither by ambition nor covetousness; nor that nicer torment, a morbid love of approbation, which racks the sensitive genius; nor the delirium of an entrancing affection, nor by the tyranny of grosser passion; but the common aim of the majority, in their daily toil, is rather for means to sustain a bare and comfortless existence. The weariness of the scarcely successful effort is visible in almost every face. The vast increase of heart and nervous disease arises from the distracting excitement and stretch of mind which now prevail throughout society, especially in large cities, where great competition exists, and where an uncertain commerce furnishes a precarious support, and wealth, and pride, too often take mean advantages of laborious poverty. The votaries of pleasure are scarcely more exposed to the causes of mental disquietude than the devotees of Mammon; and both alike waste the energies of life in excitement, and alike suffer the penalty of breaking those laws which naturally regulate the uses of both body and mind. The gambling spirit as constantly haunts the Exchange and Corn-market as the play-table; and, by perplexing, and distracting the mind, soon saps the basis of health, and anticipates old age. Hence in large commercial towns we often witness, even in persons who have barely reached the middle period of life, the haggard face, sunken eye, hoary hair, and feeble gait, which properly belong to "winded old." Nor can the results be surprising to those who reflect that anxiety is but a chronic kind of fever; a sort of intermittent fever or ague, which as manifestly disorders the circulation and secretions as that which arises from the poisonous malaria of the marshes, and which is scarcely more deadly than that of the market, in these days of desperate speculation and grasping monopoly.—*Moore's Power of the Soul over the Body.*

**Temperance.**

**PHILADELPHIA.**

There have been several meetings held lately in this city by our principal clergymen, for the purpose of devising measures to give a new impetus to the cause of temperance, for the purpose of bringing Christian influence more directly and efficiently to bear upon the suppression of this hideous vice. There are some new features in the proposed plan of operation, as you may see from the annexed extract from the report. If the plan proposed be prosecuted with energy, it cannot fail to be beneficial:—

After prayer and deliberation, it was unanimously agreed that the cause of temperance demands the sympathy and cordial co-operation of every friend of the human race.

It was evident to the committee that very much good had been done by organizations now existing; but that some more direct and efficient means were necessary, in order to engage the hearts and hands of very many, who seem as yet to be indifferent or inactive in this good cause.

In the cause of human benevolence, we are allowed to look for good results only from corresponding agencies, and as the church of Christ is the highest agency of good to man, it seems evident that whatever essential good is done to man, must be done directly or indirectly by the Church.

It is well remembered, that when the ministers and members of our churches were active and zealous in its behalf, the cause of temperance was highly prosperous. But when ministers and members of our churches withheld their active aid, and in a measure ceased to co-operate, temperance, in most of its essentially practical enterprises, was at a stand and even retrograding.

The committee also reported a series of resolutions, which were severally considered in the Convention, amended, and unanimously adopted as follows.

*Resolved*, 1st. That the principle of entire abstinence from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage, be adopted as the basis of our union and action.

2d. That the true and efficient method of advancing the reformation, is in setting forth the Gospel of Christ, and by making appeals to the public on the ground of morality, sobriety, public good, the present and eternal welfare of man, and the fear of the Lord.

3d. That in order to the successful accomplishment of our object, we recommend a visible organization on the above-named basis.

4th. That we recommend to the ministry in particular, that they frequently present the subject to their congregations.

5th. That we most earnestly recommend to the ministers and officers of the several Christian churches in this city, to endeavour to obtain the subscription, as far as practicable, to the principles of Total Abstinence, of male and female, of old and young, in their respective congregations, and that a register of such names be immediately opened in each congregation.

6th. That a meeting of the friends of temperance be called, for the purpose of forming a City and County Temperance Society.

*Philadelphia, April 1849. ADELPHOS.*

**Varieties.**

**THE BEE.**

That within so small a body should be contained apparatus for converting the "virtuous sweets" which it collects into one kind of nourishment for itself, another for the common brood, a third for the royal glue for its carpentry, wax for its cells, poison for its enemies, honey for its master, with a proboscis almost as long as the body itself, microscopic in its several parts, telescopic in its mode of action, with a thing so infinitely sharp, that were it magnified by the same glass which makes a needle's point seem a quarter of an inch it would yet itself be invisible, and this, too, a hollow tube—that all these varied operations and contrivances be enclosed within half an inch of length, and two grains of matter, while in the same "small room" the large heart of at least thirty distinct insects is contained—is surely enough to crush all thoughts of atheism and materialism.—*Quarterly Review.*

**Gas from Water.**

This new discovery, which is being adopted very generally in some of the Lancashire towns, is exciting much attention in this neighbourhood; and as many of our readers may not be enabled to view the apparatus at the Basford Iron Works, we give a short description of it. That now supplying Mr. Wakefield's works only occupies about five feet square, without the gasometer, but including the fire, and consists of two retorts, one occupied by charcoal and a hollow piece of perforated iron, and the other by a mass of chains. Two pipes and a small iron box act as purifiers. For lace-gassing, &c. water, and water only, need be used, but where a brilliant light is required, as for factories, &c., a small quantity of oil matter (which Mr. Wakely finds superior to rosin or tar) is added, and the result is, a gas more brilliant than that obtained from coal, and perfectly free from smell and dirt. The apparatus we have alluded to will produce 1,000 feet in ten hours, at an expense of less than 2s., and would cost from £40 to £50; but one calculated for a private family would be put for £10, including the licence.—*Nottinghamshire Guardian.*

**Prevention of Smoky Chimneys.**

We see it stated in one of our exchanges that Sir Henry Hart, Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital, England, has recently patented an invention for promoting the draught of chimneys, so as to prevent all smoking and promote ventilation in apartments. The apparatus consists of a fan wheel in the centre of the cowl or chimney top, the axis being horizontal immediately on a level with the orifice. One half of the wheel projects above and is open to the influence of the wind, while the lower half is shielded from it, and it is therefore made to rotate very rapidly and acts like a screw to force up the smoke or vitiated air from below. There is a diaphragm placed across one half of the chimney to prevent any air being forced downwards, and the smoke therefore is confined to one half of the chimney.

**REMEDY FOR ASTHMA.**

The Maine Cultivator says that an individual who has suffered much from asthma, and who had in vain sought relief from regular physicians, wishes to give publicity to the following remedy;—Procure common blotting paper, and thoroughly saturate it in a solution of nitre, (saltpetre) and let it be carefully dried by the fire or exposure to the rays of the sun. On retiring at night, ignite it, and deposit it, burning, on a plate or square of sheet iron or zinc in your bedroom. In many cases, it is said, this has enabled persons painfully afflicted to enjoy their rest at night.