

ever invented. A few flickering lamps just 'made the darkness visible' hanging a few rods distance from each other, and the low rumbling of the noisy streets above us, surrounded like distant thunder. The air was deliciously fragrant with the wine odors, and there was almost intoxication in breathing it.

Away we went, threading passage after passage, and turning corner after corner, until our guide stopped short before 'Cask 3421. 'Oporto Wine,' and commenced tapping it. My friend looked imploringly at me, as much as to say, 'How shall we escape tasting?' An inversion of my glass suggested to him an easy mode of escape, and when our glasses were full, while the guide was looking at the cask, it was an easy matter to pour the red wine upon the earth. Looking up and seeing our empty glasses, he asked, 'Will you take another glass?' We told him 'no,' and he remarked that many was the fine lady who took her second glass there.

'And do fine ladies come here to taste your wine?' we asked. He replied that they often did so, and that more than once he had helped away a fair creature in a state of 'exaltation.' Here was a secret of the habits of some of the 'upper circles,' for no poor men's daughters ever get orders to taste the wine in the London Vaults. We turned away, and just then a party like ourselves came along—a couple of finely dressed ladies with their guide came, very likely to select wines for some great *fete*, or perhaps merely for the gratification of the tasting operation. I ascertained a singular fact from a friend in regard to a certain kind of wines in these vaults; many has been the year when the books of the Vaults show sales of more Oporto wine than is made at Oporto! When one recollects that Port wine at this time was remarkably plenty in all other parts of the world—all *genuine Oporto*—it affords a significant clue to many glaring facts in the wine importing trade.—*Hartford Republican.*

CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1849.

THE VOICE OF THE SEASON.

It is to be deeply regretted that men are generally so callous to the appeals which are daily made to their hearts. The voice of God may be represented as a "still small voice" from the fact that it may be so effectually and is so frequently drowned, but it is not a distant sound. If it is low, it is near; none approaches so near to address us as God. He standeth at the door. According to his purpose and promise the seasons hold on their course and as the day silently retires when night comes on without trumpeting its departure, so the seasons succeed each other. Since our last the beautiful autumn, upon which every other season seems to wait, serving it with snow or rain or heat, has given precedence to winter and the stern features of the latter are strongly contrasted with the mild and sunny skies which have made the past Fall so beautiful. As death, loving the shining mark, so often cuts down the fairest of our friends, and hurries their endeared forms to the grave, so winter appears to have come with unwonted suddenness to hush the caresses and blight the pleasures of the multitudes who were enjoying and praising the harvest-crowned and golden Autumn. It is now fairly entombed. Its successor has come in all his official regalia, and has been introduced with rain and hail and wind and snow, and no sooner had its chilling freezing cold embraced the earth than the pall is thrown over it; and now crusted with frost and enveloped in snow the ground has become a general sepulchre. The Autumn of 1849, with its preceding Summer and Spring are no more. But stern as are the features of Winter, exclusive as appear its prerogatives, and incontestable as would now appear its authority, it is but a season; every day shortens it, and soon it will be gone.—The God of the seasons will have furnished his lessons upon this freshly turned leaf, and another in its regular succession will be making its appeal to the heart and intellect of mankind. Their regularity and succession do not depend upon their length or shortness, but upon the will of Him whose sovereign purpose they subserve: So the annual death and the annual resurrection which they effect upon the earth and its productions truly though feebly represent the timeliness and certainty of those great changes to which it has pleased the Former of our bodies and the Father of our Spirits to subject our persons. Every season in its passage carries with it a

multitude from the land of the living. Though they sleep long, and thousands of summers bud upon their graves, and as many winters heap their snows there, the length of the sleep does not affect the question of their resurrection. With Him who killeth and who maketh alive, "one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as one day." He has said and shall he not also perform! "The hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth." The dead will assuredly rise, and the living will assuredly die. There is an equal certainty about each. "That which thou sowest is not quickened except it die." We live to die, and we die to live again, for "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God."

Evangelical Alliance.

At the recent meeting of this body in Glasgow, a psalm having been sung, Mr. Noel read the 14th chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, and then proceeded to deliver the opening address. After expressing regret that it should be necessary to offer any apology for an attempt to promote Christian union, he proceeded to develop the principle which brought them together:

"In the chapter he had read—which he had selected purposely on that account—the first principle to which they ought to have regard was very clearly laid down. It was a supreme regard to the authority of Christ, or, as it was expressed in the passage, Let every one be persuaded in his own mind, for whatsoever was not of faith was sin—even though materially right, it was sin to them who performed it, unless it sprang from an investigation of Christ's will, and a belief that in doing it they were fulfilling his commandment.—And if he had enjoined it, then it was to be done though the world forbade."

We cannot withhold our admiration from the man who manifests so much wisdom and conscientiousness as Mr. Noel. The Evangelical Alliance probably has no more decided friend to Christian union, and to the great objects contemplated by the organization than Mr. Noel, but the next thing to being honest and conscientious is to be practical. Many who have espoused that body are full of impracticable schemes; as though calling all by one name, or yoking them under one organization would construct a union. Mr. Noel presents two distinct thoughts which are entitled to the most serious consideration of Christians. We may involve them in one principle, or we may separate them and view them singly for effect.

1. Christ's authority is supreme. If he says do, we must do, if the whole world forbid.

2. In direct religious service as rendered to God, it is wrong to assume the prerogative of legislator and devise for our own observance, or impose for the observance of others what He has not instituted. Convictions resting upon the word of God have the character of faith, but when they rest upon tradition, custom, expediency, they are presumptive; and jealous of his authority, the Lord enquires "Who hath required this at your hands?"

Nothing would conduce more to a general and permanent union among Christians than an intelligent admission of these principles, for by becoming united to Christ we should be united to each other; and the ground occupied would be the immovable rock of truth.

It gives us pleasure to learn from the American Missionary Magazine, that the Kemees in the vicinity of Akyab, in whose behalf our dear brother Burpe has been so interested, and for whose good he had finally devoted himself, are to be provided for. Rev. Harvey E. Knapp, and his wife, sailed for Calcutta, in the ship Arab, on the 13th ult. for Akyab. This brother has recently graduated from Hamilton University, and is to labor among the Kemees, and with Rev. Messrs. Ingalls and Moore, will make three Missionary families at that station after brother Burpe relinquishes it.

Rev. G. F. Miles has kindly forwarded £2 5s. for the French Mission. We hope others will remember this interesting field, now inviting their prayers and support.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Rev. G. F. Miles, with remittance; Mr. James Ayer, with remittance; Rev. D. Crandal, with remittance; Rev. Wm. Sears; his parcel will be sent first opportunity, has only been delayed by its not being sent for; Rev. S. Elder.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

St. John, Dec. 6th, 1849.

MR. EDITOR,—The Committee of the "Ladies' City Missionary & Mariners' Friend Society," have received regularly at their Monthly Meeting a report from the Missionary in the employ of that Society, of his labour in the sphere allotted him. These extracts from his journal have interested and encouraged the Committee exceedingly, and they would have liked to have given them to the public through the medium of your paper, but as part could scarcely be published without injustice to the whole, they have refrained from doing so. At the last meeting of the Committee they decided to send the Report read at that time to you, requesting that if not too lengthy, it might have a place in your columns; and in doing this they feel that the public cannot judge of the labors of a half year by extracts from the Missionary's journal of one month. We would leave the publication of the enclosed entirely to yourself, knowing that you must feel equally interested with ourselves in the object in which we are engaged.

Yours, respectfully,

LUCY A. ANSLEY, Sec'y.

Missionary Extracts Continued.

Sept. 4th, visited eight families, with whom I conversed and prayed; found several sick persons, and others under affliction of different kinds, some had hope in the Saviour, some had not I fear, any good grounds to hope; while in some cases afflictions, were I trust, proving to be their best blessings. My own mind was often both instructed and comforted.

6th, found to-day much spiritual darkness. At one place I called, I found the woman of the house washing clothes, from the circumstance I took the opportunity to speak of the spiritual cleansing we needed because of the defilement of our heart, and referred to the "fountain that was open for sin and uncleanness." I asked her then if her heart had ever been purified, or if she felt any trouble from the fact of having a sinful heart. She said, "no, I have not a bad heart, I never do any bad things." But the Bible says we are all sinners, and unless we are born again, or our hearts made holy, we cannot enter into heaven. What would you call a bad heart madam, or what are some of the works of a bad heart. "Those who murder, steal, curse, and swear, have bad hearts, but I dont do any of these things—those too who get drunk, have bad hearts." I endeavoured by plain illustration, and scripture declaration, to show her the native corruption of the heart, and to point her to the only acceptable sacrifice for sin. Poor woman, wrapped up in ignorance of herself, she sees not the need of a Saviour, and trusts not in him for salvation. I met with a man near this house who was digging stones, and after conversing with him upon the nature of his employment, referred to some scripture where the human heart is likened to stone, and of the necessity of its being softened and purified, he listened attentively to me, acknowledged he was not what he ought be, but was poor, could not read, had a large family, had to work hard, &c., all of which I fear were excuses, which in common with many he made for not loving and serving God. I gave him some Tracts for his little girl to read to him. Visited four other families, but nothing appeared very encouraging with the exception of a woman, who I had visited before, and who had experienced a good deal of affliction in her family. I cannot but hope her mind is sincerely exercised. My prayer to God was that her impressions may be deepened.

13th, I find I have not made any entry of any visit since the 6th. A few incidents only occur to my mind—much poverty I found, and what was more to be deplored much spiritual poverty. One poor woman called at my house about dark wishing me to attend the funeral of her child, she had no money to pay for a burial place, and did not know where she could obtain a place free of cost; after directing her where to find a place I soon went according to her request, and when arrived at the house, I had an opportunity of speaking a few words to some of the neighbours, who were gathered in. I never before attended a funeral service in the evening. No other light than the fire, the scene was solemn and novel; but what seemed most distressing was the children crying for something to eat; after

giving them some assistance, I left with peculiar emotions of mind. Called at a Roman Catholic's family, all well in their own estimation. O Lord open their eyes. Visited a woman who had lately lost a daughter, but who died in the triumph of faith—the mother too looks forward towards heaven as her home, her final rest, and though poor in this world, is rich in faith. Visited also the family of the man, mentioned on the 6th, to whom I had given Tracts for his daughter to read to him. Darkness and prejudice also, keeps truth from entering the heart. I had promised the man a New-Testament; this I now had brought; he was not at home. After conversing a little while with her, I asked if she would like to read some good Tracts, reaching some to her, she refused them, said she did not want them. I offered her the Testament but she would not take it. I asked her if she would allow her little daughter to accept of it, she replied in the negative; neither would she permit her daughter to take any of my Tracts; the girl looked anxiously as if she wished to have the books. I told her the Bible was the word of God, containing his commands to us, and unless we become acquainted with them we shall not know what he commands us to do. Citing a few passages expressing the love of God, the love and sacrifice of Christ, the way of salvation, the blessedness of the righteous, the sorrows of the wicked, I asked her if she would not like to read about things so interesting; she however refused to receive or allow her daughter to accept of the Word of God, or Tracts. Alas, thought I, what an influence is that mother exerting over her children! I warned her of her danger, and left with sorrow on account of the darkness in which she appeared so contented to remain. Not far from this I called at another place, and very different was my reception, and very different my feelings.—They accepted with apparent thankfulness the Tracts, I conversed with them upon the great concerns of religion and united in prayer, and left with my feelings lighter.

15th, I was called to attend a funeral at the Alms House, took the opportunity to converse with a number of its inmates. This evening I was sent for to visit a man supposed to be dying, found him very ill, and without any well grounded hope in the Saviour. O solemn place, to sit beside a dying man, unprepared to meet God! How responsible the position! Who is sufficient for such things?

16th, Lord's day. After the preaching in the evening, which was the third Service, I again visited the man mentioned yesterday. His mind seemed more anxious than before. His condition as a sinner seemed more to impress him than formerly. This gave me some encouragement.

17th, Preached a Sermon this evening, with reference to the death of a man, who from this port, died on his passage from Liverpool to New-York; met with some opposition from a man in a state of intoxication.

18th, Visited again the man alluded to before. He expresses a hope in the Saviour since I last saw him, and manifested a desire to depart and be with Christ. While there may be some reason generally to doubt the validity or genuineness of a death-bed repentance, we must not limit the Holy One of Israel. "To the Lord our God belong mercies."

19th, called upon to day to attend the funeral of Captain T. M., who died in this port, on board his vessel. Far from his connexions, he was followed to the grave by strangers; the tear of the widowed wife dropped not on his corpse, for she was far away; doubtless they did flow abundantly, when the sad news reached her. No ties are too tender to be severed by death. "It is appointed for men once to die." I wrote a letter to his widow informing her of the mournful news. May her afflicted mind find consolation from our Great High Priest, who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

20th, the man referred to on the 18th inst. is no more. To-day I attended his funeral. A widow and several small children mourn his death. Before his death, and while he was labouring under anxiety about his future state, his wife with tearful eye, said she would not mourn, but would freely give him up if she could but see him manifesting a hope in the Saviour.

21st, among those visited to-day was a sick woman, very ill, but entertaining a strong hope in Christ, and rejoicing in her affliction. Also a young woman who has been ill for some time; but without a clear evidence of her sins being forgiven.

24th, in my visiting to-day, I called at a house where was a woman, who a little before