

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence.

REV. E. D. VERY,

"BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED."—ST. PAUL.

EDITOR.

Volume II.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1849.

Number 33.

"AWAY, FAR AWAY."

BY REV. T. T. WATERMAN.

Air.—Home, Sweet Home.

The heart, in its fonder emotions, how strong!
A faithless depth where sympathy dwelleth;
How slowly and sadly the hours pass along,
When of home, away, far away, it telleth!

How eager its haste to be gone, homeward gone,
Fond greetings and kind ministrations to share;
Nor ceases its tears, while away and alone,
Away, far away, from the friends who are there.

Such longings as these, I never would chide,
Though far on the ocean or mountain I roam;
They telegraph love, which unchanged shall abide,
Till we meet, far away, in our heavenly home!

That home, blessed home, no farewell shall sadden,
No away, far away, cause us to sorrow;
The fulness of sight each moment shall gladden,
And the love of to-day shine purer to-morrow.

That, that will be heaven, the bliss of the soul;
With Jesus forever, and the friends we love best;
While the song, 'E'er at home, in rapture shall roll,
And echo sound ever—Lo! this is our rest!

Then cheer thee, lone one, wipe the tears from thine eyes,
Look away, far away, where wand'ring are o'er;
Where clouds never gather, where storms never rise,
And the heart in its love, is home-sick no more.

Dr. Baird's Lectures on Europe.

He remarked that France, although she excelled in the fine arts, was far behind many countries in respect to the useful arts. The implements of agriculture, there in use, are extremely rude. The strength of France depends greatly on its thorough consolidation, and the fact that the French language is spoken almost exclusively throughout every part of it. In the territories bordering on the Rhine, which have been but recently annexed to France, there are about a million of people who speak German. In Brittany, a language like that of the Welsh is spoken; and several Welsh clergymen have lately gone over to that province as missionaries.

The lecturer then proceeded to speak of Spain and Portugal. These are extremely beautiful countries, and the extent of both of them is a little more than that of France.—The lecturer had never seen a Spaniard who could tell him the population of that country. The people cannot endure the idea of a census being taken, for they think it the precursor of increased taxation. It was thought that the population of Spain might be 16,000,000, and that of Portugal about 4,000,000.

These countries occupy the southwestern peninsula of Europe, and their natural advantages are great. The sparseness of their population is owing to their numerous wars, especially with the Moors, and their bad governments. The land is very elevated, and the climate delightful. If the mountains were taken away, you would see two immense plains, the larger sloping to the West, and the smaller to the East. The city of Madrid is elevated 2,500 feet above the level of the sea. The lecturer here pointed out on the map the prominent geographical features of the country.

Gallicia is a very poor country, and the people of that province, who are a hardy race, are obliged to emigrate to gain a subsistence. Andalusia is one of the finest countries in the world. The straits of Gibraltar, in the narrowest part, are twelve miles wide, but opposite the rock they are fifteen miles in width. As you sail through them, you are struck with the height of the mountains on either side.—The scenery is truly sublime. The Bay of Gibraltar is eight miles long, and five miles wide. The end of the promontory, on which the fort stands, is composed, entirely of rock for the space of three miles, and is apparently insulated. The sides of the rock are almost perpendicular, except to the West, where it slopes down like the roof of a house. There

are stationed here 5,000 troops, and 1,000 cannons are mounted on the heights. Toward the North, galleries are cut in the rock, through which port holes have been made. The top of the rock is but a few feet wide. This place is visited with east winds, which often produce a dense fog. Monkeys are indigenous to this rock, which were probably brought there by the Moors. The city of Gibraltar is built on the western side of the rock, and contains a population of eighteen or twenty thousand people, gathered from almost every nation in the world.

Spain is not far enough south to be very hot, though occasionally it is visited with the sirocco. Fevers are not very prevalent in that country. Sometimes in August and September, it suffers from drought. They have considerable snow in the winter, among the mountains, though but little in the valleys. There is a great scarcity of timber. The principal productions of the country are wine and fruit. The cork-tree grows in the South, and looks very much like our oak. Sherry wine takes its name from Xeres, where it is made.

The commerce of the country is insignificant, compared with what it should be, owing to wretched government and legislation.—Everything is taxed to its utmost capacity and duties are even laid on exports, in order to raise the annual revenue of \$60,000,000. In consequence of these duties there is immense amount of smuggling carried on, the center of which is at Gibraltar. The Gipsies figure prominently in this trade, and there are more of them in this country than any where else in Europe.

Agriculture is in a very low state; the ground is imperfectly cultivated, and the implements of husbandry are extremely rude. You will often see wooden wheels with four spokes in them. The country people live in villages, in houses of stone. Their dress is very rude, and their costume varied. There are no fences in this country, and the flocks are watched by the shepherds.

There are a few roads in Spain, diverging from Madrid as a center, over which run diligences, drawn by mules. These vehicles are very comfortable, and you can travel in them at the rate of a hundred miles in twenty-four hours. The hotels in the cities are good. In other parts of the country the roads are bad, and the hotels very much as they are described in Don Quixotte.

Many things in that country appear quite oriental. The houses have often courts inside in which there is a well. The wine is put in sacks made of the skins of pigs, with the hairy part inside.

During a civil war, it is very dangerous travelling in Spain, though at other times you may travel almost anywhere with safety. The robbers in this country are the most famous in the world. It is of no use to resist them, and if you comply with their requests they will treat you with great politeness. By making a contract with one of the chiefs of these robbers you can travel over the country unmolested.

The common people in Spain live principally on fruit, black bread, and water. They are frugal and temperate, drink but little wine, and often make a dinner on two or three figs. It is the land of muleteers, whom Cervantes has described with entire accuracy. At the best hotels, the principal article for breakfast is chocolate. The first dish at dinner is the olla, a sort of soup, made up of a great variety of meats and vegetables.

The Spaniards are not so stout as the English, nor so tall as the Germans. They have hardy, compact bodies, and can endure great fatigue. They are an exceedingly beautiful race. In the northern parts you will see light

hair and blue eyes, but dark hair and eyes predominate. The Spaniards are the most dignified people in Europe. They pride themselves on their past history, their religion, and the purity of their blood. In this latter respect there is but little occasion for pride, for there is not a more mixed people in Europe. There are about half a million of Basques in the north of Spain, who are probably the descendants of the aboriginal inhabitants, who settled there shortly after the deluge. The Basques have never yet been subdued by any nation.

But we have only to glance at the history of Spain, to see that its population must be of a very mixed character. In the first place, the Phœnicians had colonies in this country. They were followed by the Carthaginians, and they by the Romans, who conquered and held the country for years. Then the Goths overran it, and divided it up into territories; and in the eight century it was conquered by the Moors, who held possession of it for eight hundred years. The native Spaniards at length regained their power, and drove the Moors from their country. There are a great many Jews in Spain. Out of these various elements, the Spanish character has been formed.

The Spaniards are very proud, but they are very honest, and there is very little meanness among them. They are very reserved in their manners; and though they make dangerous enemies, they also make the best of friends. And their friendship is not difficult to preserve. Though there is a great deal of vice of every kind among them, they have a great deal of character, and if they had as much religion as we have, they would be the noblest people in Europe.

The Andalusians are the most refined people in Spain, and they boast of their civilization. The Spanish women are treated with the greatest respect, and they may walk the streets at any time of night without the least fear of insult. An interesting sketch was given of the manners of the Spanish women. They walk with more grace than the women of any other nation in the world.

The government in both Spain and Portugal is a constitutional monarchy. There is, however, a sad want of patriotism among the great public men. Education is in a very bad state, though these countries have produced distinguished authors. The religion is Catholic almost altogether. No other religion is permitted in Spain, but in Portugal they are more tolerant. In Spain, the Catholic religion is associated with their wars. They have fought for their religion, and their women. They consider the Virgin Mary as the beau ideal of a woman. They do not dislike the Protestants, and they have no occasion to; but they hate the Infidels and the Jews.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE.

Fifty-four men of the highest reputation for learning and the study of the Scriptures, were selected, to whom was committed the task of preparing a translation for the public and private use of British Christians, and who entered upon their labours in the spring of 1606. Between the time of their commencement of their duties, no less than seven of them had died; and the remaining forty-seven, divided into six companies, repaired to different stations to enter on the performance of their work. The first company consisting of ten persons, met in Westminster and translated from Genesis to the end of the Second Book of Kings. The second company consisting of eight persons, met at Cambridge, and translated from 1 Chronicles to the end of the Song of Solomon. The third company, consisting of eight members, met at Oxford, and translated to the end of the Old Testament. The fourth, consisting

of seven persons, met in another part of Cambridge, and translated the books of the Apocrypha. The fifth, consisting of eight members met at Oxford, and translated the Gospels, the Acts, and the Revelations. And the sixth, consisting of seven persons, who met at Westminster accomplished the translation of the Epistles. Every individual in each company was to prosecute, independently, the portion of the work allotted to that company.—When a portion was finished by one company, it was submitted to the review of another; and if any objection was made, the passage was pointed out, and returned for re-consideration; after which, if any doubt was entertained, or any disagreement still existed regarding it, it was reserved as a disputed point for revision by the General Committee. Six most eminent and influential of the whole body were appointed for this purpose, to meet at stated intervals, and by conversation, as well as joint perusal of the work of each section, promote, as far possible, harmony of views and language. A final revision was undertaken by two of the most learned bishops of the day. Notwithstanding the undivided attention of these six companies was given to the work, and the minds of the nation were wound up to a high pitch of expectation the translation was not completed till the end of three years. But the time and pains bestowed upon it, and the vast erudition embarked in the undertaking, were amply compensated by the excellence of the version itself, which, although, perhaps, in some places, it is susceptible of improvement, is yet, when judged as a whole, the best and most unexceptionable that has been made in any language. The blemishes that appear in it are like the spots of the sun, lost and overlooked in the midst of the general splendour; and with regard to it, a competent judge (Dr. Gray) has said, "It is a wonderful and incomparable performance; equally remarkable for the general fidelity of its construction, and the beautiful simplicity of its language." With this English translation of the Scriptures, the most interesting associations are connected. The possession of it is the great privilege and birthright of our countrymen; and while it is on account of its being the record of the Divine will—its proclaiming the joyful sound—its containing the only rule of our life, and the only means of our salvation—that the possession of it is chiefly valuable, and that makes us a people highly favoured of heaven; yet looking to it in a literary point of view, no ordinary interest is attached to a version, the history of whose introduction into our country, is a record of unparalleled perils, and providential deliverances,—a version, which is now stamped with a venerable air of antiquity; which, for two hundred and fifty years, has been scanned by the eyes, and cherished with the affectionate reverence of successive races of our forefathers,—a version on which, like the dominions of the Monarch in whose language, it is made, the sun never sets,—a version which is mixed up inseparably with all that has contributed to the rise and progress of our country's greatness; and which now, by the invention of printing, has been multiplied in such numbers, and diffused to such an extent, as proves it to be, like its Divine Author, almost possessed with the attribute of omnipresence,—to be, at least, the king and lord above all other books.—*Edinburgh Christian Magazine.*

Haw, Haw!—In a catalogue compiled some years ago by a French writer of "Works on Natural History," he has inserted Edgeworth's "Essay on Irish Bulls."

Have the courage to obey your Maker, at the risk of being ridiculed by man.