

CHRISTIAN



VISITOR.

A Family Newspaper: devoted to

Religious & General Intelligence.

REV. E. D. VERY,

BY PURENESS, BY KNOWLEDGE—BY LOVE UNFEIGNED.—ST. JOHN

EDITOR.

Volume II.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1849.

Number 17.

WHAT IS HOME?

What is home? in the thoughts of awakening spring,
When the green buds burst, and the glad birds sing,
And the garden breatheth in honeyed scents,
And puts forth its sweetest blandishments,
And each flower looks up with clear, bright eye
Into the face of the glowing sky,
And the buds, and the birds, and the bright flowers come
To the wanderer's dreams; but they are not home.

For there lacketh the music of merry tongues,
That ran through the garden like fairy songs;
And there lacketh the patter of happy feet,
That filled the haunts of each loved retreat;
And there lacketh the glitter of laughing eyes,
And the joy of the young heart's gayeties,
That gave to the scene its living soul,
The inward spirit that named the whole.

Remove that charm, and in vain you come
From distant regions to seek for home;
Though it beareth the old familiar name,
And its scenes of beauty remain the same,
With those of the well-remembered spot
That memory cherished, that place is not
What our fancy shadowed in years gone by,
When we spoke of the home of our infancy.

Such is the change, in lapse of years,
That over every home appears;
And it is well the heart should know
That all such pleasures come and go;
Lest clothing any human tie
With thoughts of immortality,
We give to earthly things a love,
That the soul owes to realms above.

Reginald Vere.

LECTURES ON EUROPE.

The Boston Traveller is publishing the report of a series of lectures now being delivered in that city by Dr. Baird, on the several countries of Europe. We extract the following notice of the southern nations of this important quarter of the globe:—

Dr. Baird 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 recent war in Switzerland, the lecturer remarked, was not a religious war, as many have supposed, but a political one. It was a struggle for power between the aristocracy and the masses. Seven or eight Catholic Cantons first formed the league of the Sonderbund, because the Diet had ordered the expulsion of the Jesuits from Luzerne.—Both parties were in the wrong, but the Sonderbund being once formed, the aristocracy encouraged its continuance, and identified themselves with it. Indeed, so far was this war from being a religious one, that many of the best Protestants, as Merle D'Aubigne, condemned the conduct of the Diet. The general who led the troops of the Sonderbund, was a Protestant.

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 his 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 south western 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 2500 feet above the level of the sea, whereas London or Paris cannot be elevated more than 200 feet above 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 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 5000 troops, and 1000 cannon 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 fruits. 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 an immense amount of smuggling carried on, the centre 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 good roads in Spain, diverging from Madrid as a centre, 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 principal 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 remarkably 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 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 Phoenicians had colonies in this country. They were followed by the Carthaginians, and they by the Romans, who had conquered and held the country for years. Then the Goths overran it, and divided it up into territories; and in the eighth 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.

A Dream, with a Moral to it.

A certain minister of the Wesleyan Conference, whose name we withhold from our readers, felt, as the close of the year approached, severely tried, owing to his inability to cancel his pecuniary obligations. During the year he had laboured devotedly and successfully.—God had crowned his labours. Many souls had, through his instrumentality, been won to the Saviour, and believers had been confirmed and sanctified. But the Circuit was largely in arrears, touching the ministers' salary.—He could not meet his engagements, and was forced even to deny himself and his family of many comforts. Yet, hope, that "springs eternal in the human breast," pointed to the approaching quarterly-meeting—the last in the current year—and whispered many of his fears away. Still there were lingering doubts in

his mind; and, alternating between hope and fear, he laid his troubled head upon his pillow. He slept; and in his slumber he dreamed a dream. He dreamed that he was in the fourth quarterly-meeting for the year; and that when all the returns from the various classes were made up, a deficiency of twenty pounds was announced! He was sorely oppressed, nor could he check the sigh that arose, as he thought of the embarrassment that must be brought upon himself by this large deficiency. Great, however, was his surprise when the Recording Steward stood up, and, addressing the official members of the meeting, said, "Brethren, by your suffrages was I elected to my present office. In accepting that office I felt bound in honour and in justice to see the claims of the Circuit met to the last farthing. This I am resolved to see done, even should I have to make up all the arrears myself. But the honours of office are too dear at such a cost. I cannot afford to purchase the Recording Stewardship at such an exorbitant price but *once in a lifetime*. If it be necessary I will pay the sum now; but hereafter you must find another Recording Steward. As such I could never permit the preacher who faithfully discharged his duty to have withheld from him any part of his small salary; nor am I in circumstances to justify my continuance in office on terms which would require me to pay twenty pounds, simply because others were too careless or too parsimonious or too dishonest to pay their quarterage!"

The noble-minded man, after giving expression to his views and intentions, which were as honourable as they were just, sat down.—Immediately another Steward arose, and said, "that as the management of the temporal and pecuniary affairs of the Circuit were committed to the Stewards, it was his conviction that they were in honour, and by the laws of Christianity, bound to see the claims of the Circuit met. And he would advance his proportion to satisfy those claims to the last penny." Another, and another of the Stewards arose, cheerfully echoing the sentiments advanced—all willing and ready to meet the deficiency.

A fine spirit was diffused throughout the meeting. All seemed to feel their obligations as they had never felt them before. One after another, the class-leaders got up expressing their conviction that the arrears constituted a debt upon the quarterly board which that board could not in *honesty* allow to remain uncanceled, while the Circuit had the ability to discharge it. They were of opinion that they, as leaders, should advance the sum required, on the good faith of their classes, pay the amount over to the Stewards, and thus enable them on the spot to pay the minister's salary and allowance in full. In accordance with the expression of these views, one leader advanced ten shillings; another, a pound; another, seven-and-sixpence; another, one pound ten; and so on, until the sum of twenty pounds—the amount of reported arrears—was in the hands of the Stewards to be paid over to the minister.

The emotions and feelings of the minister were new to him. He had never been placed in precisely similar circumstances, and for a time he hardly knew what to think or what to say. The sum would relieve him from all his embarrassments and take away from his heart a load of anxiety. It would place him in easy and comfortable circumstances. He pictured to himself the happy results of this unlooked for movement upon his family, himself, and the members of his future charge. He could go them with a mind from worldly anxiety. He would "owe no man anything." His undivided and undistracted energies of mind would be devoted to the spiritual welfare of his people. He felt that he would be able to labour more