

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 III.

SAINT JOHN, NEW-BRUNSWICK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1850.

Number 41.

BIBLE GRATITUDE.

During the late hostilities with England, an order was given for the war prayer to be read in all the churches of Norway for success against the British arms. A company of Norwegian miners refused to join their petitions with those of their nation. "When starvation overtook us," said the generous band, "it was the corn and sympathies of England which saved us from death; and what is yet more deserving of our gratitude, it was England who sent us the Bible—we cannot pray against England."

Arise against Britannia, go!

Her fleet is on the main;
Arm, arm from every mountain's brow!
Arm, arm from every plain!
And summoned by that mustering call,
The land rose up in ire,
Till from low hut to kingly hall,
All Norway caught the fire.

Kneel! kneel! that heaven may pour like rain,

Swift vengeance on the foe!
And forth from every house and fane
The prayer was heard to go;
Save one weak band of peasant men,
Who would not bow the knee;
None heard their voices mingling then
In hymns for victory.

But when the lattice pane grew red
With the sun's closing ray,
And from long toil the miner sped,
Quick on his homeward way;
Then from low hearts of humble worth
Went up a prayerful strain,
That dove-like peace might brood o'er earth,
On silver wings again.

"Who when the famine mocked our toil
Sent help across the sea?
Thy stores were opened, generous Isle,
And shall we war with thee?
Yet dwells there loftier cause than this,
Oh! clime beloved of Heaven!
Our first sweet hopes of endless bliss,
From sons of thine were given.

"Fair was the bark that freely bore
For us the page of life;
Peace! peace! oh Albion, evermore—
We will not pray for strife."
Still, still, my England! shower thy gifts
Of earthly, heavenly bread;
So on thy name, in every clime,
A blessing shall be shed.

MARIE.

GLASGOW.

Glasgow is the commercial metropolis of Scotland, and in wealth, population, manufacturing and commercial importance, the third city in Great Britain. It stands on both sides of the Clyde, about twenty miles from the Atlantic. A range of fine hills, at the distance of about eight miles, forms a screen around it from north-east to north-west. The climate is temperate, but owing to its proximity to the sea, is subject to frequent rains. In fact, it is quite celebrated for this. The city claims to have been founded in the year 560, though the first fact of any importance which emerges from the obscurity of its early history, was the erection of the Cathedral in 1136. This massy, imposing, and venerable pile, by dint of recent repairs, has all the perfect appearance of a recent structure.

Glasgow, in many points, strongly resembles New York. There is the same bustle, active energy, and unwearied perseverance in the pursuit of commerce, which characterizes our American metropolis. The ratio of its increase in population, too, is very striking for

a European city. In 1651 it contained 14,000 souls; in 1831, 202,426; in 1841, 257,592, and now, upwards of 300,000. It was at low tide that I first came up the Clyde, in a small steamer from Greenock, and how was I surprised to find that river of which I had heard so much, a mere canal, I had almost said a brook; so narrow, that it seemed difficult at low water, as it then was, for two steamers to pass each other; and yet on the Broomielaw, (the name given to the Glasgow quay) lie vessels from China, Calcutta, California, America, and in fact, from every port and every sea. This river (the Clyde) is, I think, the greatest triumph of the pursuit of commerce under difficulties, which I have ever seen.—By the enterprise of Glasgow merchants, it has been so deepened, that what was once scarcely sufficient to float a sloop, now bears upon its bosom the man-of-war, the merchantman, and the ocean steamers. Up and down the river for miles, all is activity and business.

Here is the celebrated manufactory of Napier, where the engines of the Cunard line of steamers are all built. Glasgow has nearly twenty thousand steam looms, which in a year produce 100,800,000 yards. Assuming twelve cents per yard, as the average value, this branch of cotton manufacture amounts annually to upwards of twelve millions of dollars. As a city, it has not architectural beauty, nor panoramic excellence in position of Edinburgh, but notwithstanding this it possesses a fair share of both. Though but fifty miles apart, the two cities could scarcely be more dissimilar—the one the fountain of learning, the other of wealth—the one fostering literature and the fine arts, the other commerce and manufactures. At the extremity of the city, on one side, lies the Necropolis, a very beautiful cemetery, formed on the slope of a somewhat steep hill. It contains monuments to many of Scotland's mighty dead. A fine statue of Knox stands on the summit of the hill. From his elevated position, two hundred and fifty feet above the level of the Clyde, the great Reformer looks down on one of the most striking scenes that can well be imagined. "The huge mass of the venerable cathedral, surrounded by the crumbling remains and memorials of twenty-five generations, stands still and solemn at his feet, like the awful Genius of the Past; whilst the vast city stretches away in long lines and perspective in every direction, intersected by the river Clyde, with the uplands of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, and the Dumbartonshire and Argyleshire hills, forming a noble frame to the picture." Glasgow is quite celebrated for its manufacture of thread. I had the pleasure of being shown through the extensive establishment of the Messrs. Clark, whose thread is used in every part, I had well nigh said, of the civilized world. It was curious to see the thousands upon thousands of spindles, all moving with amazing rapidity, and enabling each person engaged to accomplish the labour of hundreds. The manufacture of spools was, to me, peculiarly interesting. Great logs of wood in their rough state were brought in at one end of the room, and after going through the row of machines arranged around, coming out perfect spools, without being touched by human hand, except in applying the wood to the machinery.—*Correspondent of the Philadelphia Presbyterian.*

[From the Daily News.]

South Africa.

It is passing strange, at a period when emigration and colonization are so much the rage, that more attention is not directed to South Africa. There is there a most extensive tract of available country, at little more than half the distance of Australia, with which it has

some features in common; in particular its salubrity and suitability to the European constitution. The local position of the region affords extraordinary facilities for commercial intercourse with the Argentine States and Brazil, with Mauritius, Ceylon, the East India Company's territories, and Australia. Yet we rarely hear the Cape mentioned except when some blunder of the Imperial Government has drawn down upon it a Caffre invasion, or driven the colonists to oppose a passive resistance to the introduction of convicts, or when some needy adventurers, by their preposterous speculations and systematic puffing, threaten to throw discredit on the naturally rich district of Natal.

Between the tropic of Capricorn and the 36th degree of south latitude, and between the 16th and 30th degrees of east longitude, there is a country not superabundantly fertile by nature, but capable of sustaining innumerable flocks and herds, and of being made by human industry to bear luxuriant harvests, with a healthy climate, over which European energy and enterprise are rapidly extending by the most diversified and heterogeneous efforts.

Along the west coast of Africa, from Cape Lagulhas northward, to the 25th degree of south latitude, a tract of country, varying in breadth, extends, that it is everywhere adapted to pasturage, and in many places susceptible of tillage. There is much naturally dry and barren land interspersed, but the means of artificial irrigation are not unfrequent, and wherever they have been turned to account, the undertakers have found their enterprise richly rewarded. On the east side of the continent, from Albany northwards, to the 22d degree of south latitude, a country having many features in common with what we have described, but much more extensive, has been laid open by recent expeditions. South of Delagoa Bay even the coast is healthy, and all the interior, owing to its considerable elevation above the sea, and the absence of morasses and forests with dense undergrowth or parasitical plants, is eminently so. From near the sea-coast, at the southern extremity of the continent, to as far north as European enterprise has yet pushed its discovery, a broad desert, one of the most hopeless and impenetrable on the face of the globe, intervenes between these two habitable regions.

The native inhabitants of these regions are the Hottentots and Bushmen, and the various tribes to whom the designation of Caffre has been given.

The progress of European squatters and settlers over the region, the physical qualities of which we have attempted to indicate, and among the native tribes we have cursorily described, has received its impulse from very different motives. At a first, a few hunters and traders were tempted into the interior in search of ivory, ostrich feathers, and other native produce. Next came the missionaries, who have established chains of stations along the coast into Caffraria, and northward, far into the interior. They have accustomed many of the nations to stationary habits, and have imparted to them a tincture of the mechanical arts, as well as religious knowledge. Last came the emigrant Boers, unable to come to an understanding with the British authorities in search of a country where they might plant an independent community, and ever plunging deeper into the undiscovered regions, as the emissaries of the Government from which they fled reached them to demand their submission.

Beyond the limits of Cape Town and Albany settlements (perhaps we may now add Natal) the aspect of society is as strange to the European eye as the natural scenery amid which it is thinly dispersed. There are tribes

of inoffensive nations mixed with the ferocious warriors trained by a Chaka or a Dingaan. There are zealous missionaries instilling higher notions of their destinies into these rude tribes, and there are missionaries unduly addicted to trading pursuits, and the quest of spiritual power. There are Dutch and English settlers contented to live peaceably if Government will but allow them; and there are untameable spirits, the associates and followers of Pretorius, who halt at intervals to resist the British authorities, and then, finding themselves too weak, retreat further into the interior.

There are five provinces in South Africa distinguished from each other by natural boundaries, and by social characteristics.—There are the western districts adjoining Cape Town, which, though thinly peopled, have many features of an old settled country. The Dutch element of society preponderates here, and the country is rich in corn and oil, to say nothing of brandy. The eastern districts are almost entirely isolated from the western by the great Karroo, or desert. The continuity of inhabited land is only established about the district of George by a narrow strip between the mountains and the sea. There is a considerable Dutch population in Albany, but the predominating element consists of Scotch and English settlers. Herds and flocks constitute the principal wealth of the men of Albany. They are kept constantly on the alert by the neighborhood of the Caffres, whose thievish propensities are unfeared in the western districts. North of the Orange River and east of the great desert, is what is termed the New Sovereignty, lately wrested from the emigrant Boers. It is in the very infancy of settlement. Its population is strangely diversified. There are the Griquas and other half-caste clans, retaining traces of European civilization; there are native and independent Caffre tribes; there are farmers, for the most part Dutch. On the whole, this rude and sturdy population evinces a disposition to be amenable to law and order. But it is evident from the proceedings in the last session of their Legislative Council, that Government will not be wise to draw the bonds of discipline too tight, or exact too heavy taxes. To the east of the mountains which bound the New Sovereignty on the east, and separated from Albany by Caffraria, is the settlement of Natal struggling against the evil influences of an unduly complicated and expensive system of local government and reckless land-jobbing. To the north of the Vaal River is a district in which the emigrant Boers are asserting a precarious independence, which their recent aggressions on English travellers will not permit the British Government to allow them to exercise much longer.

All of these districts are undoubtedly destined to become the seats of European settlements. The rapidity of their growth and their prosperity are in a great measure dependent upon the degree of wisdom with which they are to be governed. It is true that there is a dawn of hope in the promise of the concession of a large share of self-government to South Africa. But the Imperial Government appears disposed to act towards South Africa in a spirit of paltry resentment. One of the most extensive Government contractors at the Cape has been harshly dealt with for yielding to the compulsion of the Anti-convict League, and we have lately seen the honor of knighthood ostentatiously conferred upon an individual for no other reason than his affording supplies to Government during that contest.

The Present Race of Turks.

The Turks in Constantinople certainly looked much less like Turks, and were far