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MEDITATIONS ON DEATH.

FROM MILLS' HOME GERMANICÆ.

*That I shall die, full well I know,
All human life is short and frail!
No lasting good can earth bestow,
All portion here must quickly fail;
In mercy, Lord, direct my ways,
That I in peace may end my days.*

*When I shall die, is all unknown,
Except to thy Omiscient mind,
And lest with life my hopes be gone,
May I from thee such favour find,
That I may always be prepared
For death, and for thy great award.*

*How shall I die, to ask were vain;
Death does her work in varied forms;
To some with agonies of pain,
Some sink peacefully in his arms.
Just as thou wilt;—if, when 't is past,
My soul be found with thee at last.*

*Where shall I die—I know it not,
Nor where my ashes shall be laid;
Only be it my happy lot
With saints relieved to leave the dead;
Small care to me the place affords—
The earth throughout is all the Lord's.*

*But when in death I shall recline,
Then let my soul ascend to thee;
Through Christ's redemption I am thine,
By faith his glories now I see—
'Twill all be well! I little prize
Where, how, or when this body dies.*

[From the New-York Recorder.]

LETTER FROM BERMUDA.

We are indebted to our friend, the Hon. Isaac Davis, for the following letter from Bermuda. Its descriptions of the climate, (it was written in midwinter,) as well as other items of information, will be interesting to our readers.

BERMUDA, City of Hamilton, }
January 14th, 1850. }

Dear Sir:—You requested me, when I parted with you in New-York, to write you from this little dot on the map of the world. With my window open, I have seated myself at my table for the purpose of complying with your request. Often was I informed before I left the States that these islands were subject to terrible storms and hurricanes, to terrific thunder and lightning, and to many other things which would render my arrival and stay here unpleasant and dangerous. It gives me pleasure to say, that after spending four weeks here I find the islands as a temporary residence very delightful. I had read Bishop Berkley's account of the climate in the words following:—
"The Bermuda Islands are situated 32 degrees north latitude. No part of the world enjoys a purer air or a more temperate climate, the great ocean which environs them at once moderating the heat of the south winds, and the severity of the south-west. Such a latitude on the continent might be thought too hot; but the air in Bermuda is perpetually fanned and kept cool by the sea-breezes of one equal tenor, almost throughout the whole year." The old poet Waller had sung of them in the following strain:—

*"For the kind spring, which but salutes us here,
Inhabits them, and courts them all the year:
Ripe fruits and blossoms on the same tree live,
At once they promise what at once they give:
So sweet the air, so moderate the clime,
None sickly lives, or dies before his time,
Heav'n sure has kept this spot of earth uncurst,
To show how all things were created first."*

Shakspeare alludes to them in the Tempest in not quite so flattering terms. These descriptions may be taken with some allowances.

The group of islands called the Bermuda, which are 365 in number, and form an isolated archipelago which rises like a speck on the bosom of the broad Atlantic, are the work of that little island-building zoophite, the coral worm, which, by its untiring perseverance and indomitable industry, has accomplished works of such vast magnitude. Seldom will the geologist find a more interesting field for his investigations than these islands. In order that you may judge for yourself of the climate, I will furnish you with a few facts. The average range of thermometer for the last four years is as follows:—

Maximum,	76 deg.
Minimum,	60 "
Mean,	68 "

We had on the dinner-table yesterday green peas, new potatoes, radishes, lettuce, and other vegetables, gathered fresh from the gardens. Three crops of potatoes are grown annually. The soil is very productive. Agriculture and horticulture have as yet received but little attention, and are still in their infancy. It has often occurred to me since I have been here, if a New-England man should find his way here with some little means, that he would in a few years reap a golden harvest by the cultivation of the soil.

These islands afford much to attract the attention of the stranger. They are wonderfully fortified by nature, having coral reefs extending into the ocean from five to ten miles. In fact there is but one safe channel for ships to approach the harbor, and that is narrow and very circuitous and is indicated by numerous buoys, and this channel is very strongly fortified by the English Government; so that with great propriety it may be called the Gibraltar of the Western world. This, as a naval station, is immensely important to Great Britain, should she ever be involved in a war with any of the nations in North or South America. It has attracted the attention of her statesmen, and vast sums are now being expended to render the station still more impregnable. The great harbor is amply large to float the navies of the world. By the politeness of gentlemen to whom I brought letters, I had an opportunity of visiting the fortifications and examining them with great particularity. Of these I could speak in detail; but you being a peace man, I am confident you would feel but little interest in the matter.

I have stated that this group of islands consists of three hundred and sixty-five. The principal of the group are five in number—St. George, St. David, Bermuda proper, Somerset and Ireland. The third is by far the largest, more than equalling all the rest put together, and this is sometimes called the continent.—The islands contain about 12,000 acres. Their roads are the best I ever saw, being perfectly smooth and hard. The drives about the island are delightful; the roads are shaded by the cedar, palmetto, lemon, orange, lime, oleander, pride of India, &c. &c. I rode a few days since six miles from the city of Hamilton, to visit a small pond, which is about a mile from the sea, and separated from it by a hill about 200 feet high. This pond is about 30 feet in diameter, and about 40 feet deep; it is surrounded by a wall about 10 feet high, and persons are admitted to see it for a fee of a shilling sterling. The pond contains about 800 fish weighing from 10 to 40 pounds. These fish are tame, but exceedingly ravenous,—they will seize a stick as quick as bait, and frequently when visitors touch their umbrellas or canes to the water, the fish will immediately seize them and generally wrest them from the visitor. A large Newfoundland dog some time since jumped into the pond, and was cut to pieces at once by them. I should as quick think of jumping into a den of lions. These

fish are called groupers. They are a very fine fish for the table. The tide rises and falls in this pond, corresponding with the sea, showing that it connects with the sea.

The inhabitants are hospitable and attentive to strangers. The population of the islands is about ten thousand. There are two cities, Hamilton and St. George, about 12 miles distant, containing a population of 3,000 each. This would be an excellent place for an individual who has fallen into the bad habit of slandering his neighbour to reside; he would soon learn to bridle his tongue, for all the families are in some way related. The society of Bermuda is like a net, all connected. There are ten Episcopal churches, and seven Methodist, and two Presbyterian. But worship is regularly maintained in only about half of them.

The arrow root is their great article of export. It is grown and manufactured here.—These manufactories I have visited, and I would give you an account of them, but I have already taxed your patience longer than I had intended when I commenced writing.

The Religion of New Grenada.

The great route from the Atlantic States to our Pacific possessions being through New-Grenada, anything respecting that country, especially its religious condition, cannot fail of being interesting to our readers. A correspondent of the *Nashville Christian Advocate* says:—

The exact population of New-Grenada I have not had the means of obtaining, nor is it essential to our present purpose; but it is well known to be entirely under Papal or Jesuitical influence and jurisdiction—a state, as to its moral effects, little superior, if any, to the most disgusting Paganism. A great majority of the people live in huts or *casas* very like the wigwams of our aboriginal population of North America, the chief dissimilarity consisting in a feeble effort at greater permanence of the former in their structure, and faint imitation of the superseded or ejected Castilian. The seaport towns form an exception, in part, to the above remark, these being composed of a mixed population, and generally the more intelligent from different nations, either incidentally or from design, congregated for objects of trade and internal commerce. But although more refined and intelligent, few can be found whose implicitness in Romanism, when analyzed and tested by the unsophisticated Word of God, does not amount to an utter destitution of the torch of divine revelation and the bread of life. The sacredness of the social relations has scarcely the ordinary natural instincts left to preserve and guard inviolate the separate and distinctive peculiarities of the sexes, owing, no doubt, mainly to the predominance of the same principle which found it convenient to institute the sacrament of penance and extreme unction. I took the pains to visit several of the more intelligent families of these degraded natives, and conversed with them on the subject of religion, and other relations, in a descending scale, and found them not only quite destitute of any essential religious knowledge, but of ordinary decency, either in speech, or person, or attitude. In no family was even a Vulgate edition of the Bible to be found, nor even a Spanish, except in the sanctum studium of a padre, who generally has both. The laity have a very small catechism, which they are permitted, or rather taught, to use as the only sure guide to their faith and practice.—In one family I found an old woman who had been a Protestant while she was a slave in Jamaica, and I believe still a Christian, though now *vi necessitatis* a Roman Catholic, whose revelations of the demoralizing and fatal ten-

dency of Catholicism, bear striking coincidence with the prominent features and history of that Church in all ages and countries where it has predominated, and was most strikingly exemplified in my presence, while I was at Panama, by the *padres* or priests themselves.—Having apologised for an intimated grossly violated law of the Christian ministry, by one of the priests, upon the person of a little girl of eleven years old, of which the civil code has taken reluctant cognizance by an imprisonment of the perpetrator of the iniquitous outrage, my charity was sufficiently rebuked by a challenge to accompany the accuser to certain places of night resort, where I could witness for myself such abominations, however divested of civil misdemeanor, as can claim no immunity in morality or decency. I declined, preferring to take the word of my friend for the truth, without an ocular test.—I was then requested to visit the grand sporting piazza on the following Sabbath, at three o'clock, P. M., where I was told, I would see the priests engaged in cock-fighting. This, also, I refused for the same reasons. But one of my more reliable companions did go, and found all as true as told. A few nights afterwards Captain T. came into my room in great haste, and requested me to go with him a few minutes to the California Restaurant, the most popular eating-house in Panama, and where our company took their regular meals. Supposing his business was to take a snack, I went with him; and, after placing me in full view of all that was going on, he asked me "what I now had to say for the priests," pointing out two of the oldest and most venerable looking padres, sitting at the table betting on "*monte*," and other games of chance, habited in full and imposing sacerdotal!—This I saw myself, and then, as before, heard them preach and perform all the varied functions of their office according to their grade. These are the men who rule in Israel, who walk the streets smoking their cigars, and are greeted at every point of their promenading evolutions with the uncovered head of the obsequious parasites, and the submissive enunciation of "*Padre*," father! This same elderly Jamaica senora, of whom I spoke above, had in her possession the relics of an old English King James's version of the Bible, which she begged me to read to her. I did so, with more than ordinary interest, apparently with intense delight to her. At last she exclaimed, with an emotion, only fathomed by the gush of tears from her eyes, "O how sweet are those words! I feel! I feel! I feel!" and paused for some time; and then, recovering as from a trance, finished by stating "that since she had been emancipated and brought to Panama, she had never heard the Word of God read or expounded; that she had been a member of the Episcopal Church when on the island, but had since been induced to join the Catholic, the only one in this place." I asked her if her ministers, the priests, were not very good men. She said she did not know, but they did not *act* so in her country. How? "Why," said she, "there [Jamaica] the priests [clergymen] had wives, and were not all the while corrupting and disorganizing the social relations by their daily visits, which, though for spiritual pretenses, were concluded generally with the worst of consequences."—The above are substantially her words, to which her palsied and helpless husband accorded, "Very true."

[From the Watchman and Reflector.]

Religion in Lapland.

Any thing new, bearing upon the religion of this isolated land, will be read with interest. A correspondent of the *New York Observer* furnishes valuable facts in this regard. The