

# CHRISTIAN



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## JUDEA.

The following is one of the finest and most affecting specimens of descriptive poetry.—*Exchange.*

Blest land of Judea! thrice hallowed of song,  
Where the holiest of memories pilgrim like  
throng;  
In the shade of thy palms by the shores of thy  
sea,  
On the hills of thy beauty, my heart is with  
thee.

With the eyes of a spirit I look on that shore,  
Where the pilgrim and prophet have lingered  
before;  
With the glide of a spirit I traverse the sod,  
Made bright by the steps of the angels of God.

Blue hills of the sea! in my spirit I hear  
Thy waters, Gennesaret, chime on my ear;  
Where the Lowly and Just with the people sat  
down,  
And thy spray on the dust of his sandals was  
thrown.

Beyond are Bethulia's mountains of green,  
And the desolate hills of the wild Gadarene;  
I pause on the goat-crags of Tabor to see,  
The gleam of thy waters, O dark Galilee!

Hark! a sound in the valleys, where, swollen  
and strong,  
Thy river, O Kishon, is sweeping along,  
Where the Canaanite strove with Jehovah in  
vain,  
And thy torrent grew dark with the blood of  
the slain.

There, down from the mountain-stern Zebu-  
lon came,  
And Naphthali's stag, with his eye-balls of flame,  
And the chariots of Jabin rolled harmlessly on,  
Near the arm of the Lord was Abinoam's son!  
There sleep the still rocks and the caverns  
which rang  
To the song which the beautiful Prophetess  
sang,  
When the Princess of Issacher stood by her  
side,  
And the shout of a host in triumph replied.

Lo! Bethlehem's hill-site before me is seen,  
With the mountains around, and the valley be-  
tween;  
There rested the shepherds of Judah, and  
there  
The song of the angel rose sweet on the air.

And Bethany's palm-trees in beauty still throw  
Their shadow at noon on the ruins below;  
But where are the sisters who hastened to greet  
The lowly Redeemer, and sit at his feet?

I tread where the TWELVE in their way-faring  
trod;  
I stand where they stood with the chosen of  
God;  
Where his blessing was heard, and his les-  
sons was taught  
Where the blind was restored, and the healing  
was wrought.

O! here with his flock the sad Wanderer  
came,  
These hills he toiled over in grief are the same;  
The founts where he drank by the way-side still  
flow,  
And the same airs are blowing which breath-  
ed on his brow.

And throned on the hills sits Jerusalem yet,  
But with dust on her forehead and chains on  
her feet,

For the crown of her pride to the mocker hath  
gone,  
And the holy Shechinah is dark where it  
shone!

But wherefore this dream of the earthly abode  
Of humanity clothed in the brightness of God!  
Where my spirit turned from the outward and  
dim,  
It could gaze, even now, on the presence of  
Him!

Not in clouds and in terrors, but gentle as  
when  
In love and in meekness he moved among men;  
And the voice which breathed peace to the  
waves of the sea,  
In the hush of my spirit would whisper to me.

And what if my feet may not tread where He  
stood,  
Nor my ear hear the dashing of Galilee's flood,  
Nor my eyes see the cross which bowed him  
to bear,  
Nor my knees press Gethsemane's garden of  
prayer.

Yet, loved of the Father thy Spirit is near  
To the meek and the lowly, and the penitent  
here;  
And the voice of thy love is the same even now,  
As at Bethany's tomb, or on Olivet's brow.

Oh! the outward has gone—but in glory and  
power,  
The Spirit survives the thing of an hour;  
Unchanged, undecaying, its Pentecost flame  
On the heart's sacred altar is burning the same.

## The Gold Fields of Australia and California.

[From the London Times.]

The discovery of gold fields in New South  
Wales will produce very different effects on  
different minds; some will lament over it as  
calculated to introduce a new element of cor-  
ruption into an atmosphere only just recover-  
ing from the moral taint with which we have  
so sedulously inoculated it; while others, with  
perhaps more justice, will regard any discov-  
ery which tends rapidly and permanently to  
augment the amount of wealth possessed by  
the human race as a subject which, due allow-  
ance being made for all drawbacks, cannot be  
contemplated with feelings of self-gratulation.  
As it is not in our power to prevent the exist-  
ence of that cause which is sure to give rise  
to these speculations, we think that we should  
be employing ourselves more profitably in con-  
sidering the question in its more immediate  
relations to the welfare of the colony, than in  
abstract speculations on the advantages or dis-  
advantages of that which is clearly inevitable.

In California, the discovery of gold was  
made in a country where society was as yet  
rude and unformed, and no branch of industry  
had been cultivated with any degree of promi-  
nence or success. The new State is the crea-  
tion of the gold mines, and its population con-  
sists, not of inhabitants of the country who had  
relinquished their regular occupations for this  
more attractive pursuit, but of persons drawn  
from every quarter of the earth, and whose ab-  
sence from their respective communities was  
in many cases felt to be a relief rather than a  
burden. The case of the Australian colonies  
(for this purpose they may all be consid-  
ered as one) is as different as can possibly be  
imagined; besides the usual occupations of  
agriculture, they have, as everybody knows,  
become a field for pastoral enterprise on a scale  
of unequalled magnitude. The sheep, which  
constitute their principal wealth, are divided  
into flocks varying from four hundred to a  
thousand in number, each of which is intrust-  
ed to the care of a single shepherd. Two of

these flocks are generally driven together to  
the same station, where a third person resides,  
whose duty it is to change the hurdles and  
watch the sheep by night. The country being  
infested by wild dogs, it is absolutely necessa-  
ry that some one should always be present with  
the sheep, in order to protect them from this  
cause of destruction; and the force required  
for this purpose is about three men to every  
twelve hundred sheep. Now, in the year 1848,  
the number of sheep in New South Wales and  
Port Philip exceeded eleven millions six hun-  
dred thousand, not to speak of the flocks in  
South Australia or Van Dieman's Land. It is  
not, probably, unreasonable to calculate that,  
in the three years which have elapsed since this  
return was made, the number of sheep has in-  
creased to at least fourteen millions. This  
enormous amount of property exists from day  
to day by virtue of the unceasing care and at-  
tention bestowed upon it by the shepherds, un-  
der a rigid system of central superintendence;  
without that care it could not exist for a single  
week. Now, let our readers imagine the ef-  
fect which must be produced on the minds of  
the proprietors of these fourteen millions of  
sheep by the information that a gold field has  
been discovered, which is certain to attract  
away from their existing engagements every  
shepherd and hut keeper in their employment.  
It will be vain to attempt to retain them by  
offers of increased wages. One employer of  
labor may compete with another; but who  
can stand against the imaginary riches of an El-  
dorado in which every adventurer expects to  
find a splendid fortune impatiently awaiting  
his acceptance?

Nor is this all. The shearing of the sheep,  
which takes place about the month of October,  
is an operation not generally intrusted to the  
shepherds, but to persons who travel round the  
country for that purpose. Shearing cannot be  
long deferred in Australia without ruin to the  
fleece, from the presence of the seed of a par-  
ticular grass, well known to the purchasers at  
our wool sales. If the fleece is not shorn be-  
fore November, it is very greatly deteriorated  
in value. Now, these professional sheep-  
shearers are exactly the persons who, from  
their itinerant way of life and reckless habits,  
will be the first to swell the ranks of the gold  
finders. Add to this that the reckless and des-  
perate characters who, having served their  
sentence of transportation, now swarm in all  
the Australian colonies, will flock to the gold-  
field as a common centre, not so much with a  
view to labor as to profit by those opportuni-  
ties of plunder which such a scene of confu-  
sion and excitement must necessarily afford,  
and we have enumerated causes quite suffi-  
cient to overthrow a social and economical sys-  
tem far more firmly established than that of  
New South Wales. The difficulty of carry-  
ing supplies into the interior, through roads  
which will soon become infested with banditti,  
and under the care of men who will be far  
more disposed to desert their charge and join  
the general hunt for gold than shed their blood  
in the defence of their masters' property, will  
be no inconsiderable aggravation of the crisis.

There is but one remedy for all these things,  
and that is the prevention by armed force of  
unauthorized intrusion on the lands of the  
crown, and the preservation from plunder of  
the valuable property recently discovered.—  
The gold region has not yet passed into pri-  
vate hands; and even if it had, the royal mines  
of gold and silver would still remain the prop-  
erty of the crown. There is, therefore, a  
clear right to reserve this public property for  
public use; and when it is considered how  
materially the revenue derived from it might  
lighten the burden of taxation to the colonists,  
the duty to reserve it is as obvious as the  
right. All the proceeds of the gold-field, be-  
yond the wages of the miners and the profits of

the capital employed in working it, are clear-  
ly the property of the colony, to whose use  
they are to be applied, according to the sta-  
tute 5 and 6 Victoria, c. 36, under the direc-  
tion of three Lords of the Treasury. The  
right and duty to preserve this property being  
thus clear, we sincerely wish that our power  
to do so were equally manifest. With a com-  
mendable economy, which this unforeseen  
event by no means impugns, Lord Grey has  
reduced the troops in the Australian colonies,  
beyond those required for the coercion of the  
convicts, to a number so small—some few  
hundreds, we believe—as to be wholly unable  
to cope with the general rush towards the land  
of promise. And yet upon their ability to do  
so depends, as we have shown, not merely the  
preservation of the gold fields from the hands  
of unauthorised intruders, but the actual ex-  
istence for another year, of the flocks and  
herds which form the wealth of the colonies.  
Had we that regular and rapid steam commu-  
nication with Australia which ought, long ago,  
to have been provided, we might hope to apply  
some remedy to the evil before it becomes in-  
tolerable. As it is, our most strenuous efforts  
may possibly come too late. The duty of go-  
vernment is, nevertheless, perfectly plain—to  
send out such a force as may enable the colo-  
nial government to maintain any regulations  
which it may think fit to make for the preser-  
vation of its property. Unless something of  
the kind be speedily done, it is hardly too much  
to anticipate that the desperate ruffians whom  
we have been, for years, thrusting into the so-  
cial system of our reluctant colonies, being  
drawn to a single point, by one common pur-  
pose, may learn to appreciate their own  
strength, and, bursting from the controul of a  
government too weak to coerce them, establish  
for a time, a lawless tyranny over the peace-  
ful inhabitants of the country, which the mind  
shudders to contemplate.

Hardly a newspaper arrives from California  
without some complaint of the outrages com-  
mitted by Australian "expiries," who have  
found their way to that country. What are  
we to expect in a second California, not sepa-  
rated by the vast Pacific Ocean, but placed by  
nature in the very centre of those colonies  
which we have selected for the haunts of  
crime?

There is also an English as well as a colo-  
nial side to this question. One of our great  
branches of manufacture has suffered consid-  
erably by the scarcity of its raw material—cot-  
ton. The woollen manufacture is threatened  
with similar peril by the events which menace  
the very existence of those flocks upon which  
we depend for the supply of the finer descrip-  
tions of wool. The only means of averting  
this calamity is to protect private property in  
New South Wales, by enabling the govern-  
ment immediately to assert its dominion over  
the public lands. These considerations are so  
obvious that we cannot doubt they will be ul-  
timately attended to. What we principally  
urge is the imperious necessity of the utmost  
despatch, arising from the perishable nature  
of the property in jeopardy, and the danger  
only too likely to arise from the desperate cha-  
racter of that penal population which is sure  
to meet for the first time in large and uncon-  
trolled masses, on the gold fields of Australia.

## Decrease of Catholics in Ireland.

From a recent statement of Lord Glengall,  
it appears that, at the present time, the Ro-  
man Catholics outnumber the Protestants in  
Ireland by barely 500,000. "In 1821," His  
Lordship observed, "the Protestants number-  
ed 1,900,000 in a population of 8,000,000;  
now, in 1851, the Romanists have decreased  
1,700,000; and in a population of 6,500,000,  
the Protestants are only a minority of 500,-  
000. The Protestants did not die of famine