

CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

SAINT JOHN, FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1852.

were reported the deaths of 263 shoemakers, whose lives had averaged only 44.37 years; and 26 tailors, who averaged only 41.33 years, showing that those who follow these occupations, although they labour under shelter, unexposed to the inclemencies of the weather, are nevertheless obnoxious to other causes which tend to reduce their lives to over 20 years less than that attained, on the average, by agriculturists.

These comparisons might be extended to all classes of occupations, and without any exception, they would be found to produce results favourable to the longevity of those engaged in agriculture.

To present the above in a different form, it may be proper to consider that individuals do not usually enter upon the active duties of any occupation, so as to be entitled to classed with those that follow that for a livelihood, before they arrive at 18 years of age, and we find that the farmers work as farmers after this period 47 years, while shoemakers and tailors, do not on an average, survive beyond the time of commencing their occupations, but about 25 years.

At the commencement of this paper, it was stated that there are many powerful influences in operation, that tend to abridge the lives of those engaged in agricultural pursuits; yet an examination of the tables of mortality shows this class of people to be comparatively long-lived, and it is but proper to learn, if possible, what causes there are which counterbalance those enumerated as prejudicial to the health and life of farmers, and which insure them, on an average, a life for labour and for enjoyment, of nearly double the number of years that are reasonably to be expected by those of the sedentary habits of the tailor or the shoemaker.

Among the most prominent causes of the great comparative longevity of agriculturists, no doubt we should find the fact that their labor is performed where they can breathe the atmosphere in its purity, while they are enjoying the vivifying influence of the direct rays of the sun. With a pure atmosphere for the lungs, during labor, where the inspirations are deepest and most frequent, and with the blessed sunshine to warm the whole frame work, and all the fluids of the system, a man becomes prepared to resist the ordinary injurious impressions that otherwise would produce a very deleterious effect upon him.

The farmer's exercise is of that kind which gives play to all his muscles, and not to one set alone, as is the case in many other occupations—therefore he is less liable to accumulations of effete matter lodged in some part of the system, that only need a small amount of foreign poison to produce a ferment and consequent fever.

The farmer's mind is free from the anxiety, and the turmoil and trouble attendant upon trade. He is not obliged, like many mechanics, to dispose of the product of his labour as soon as produced, to procure bread for himself and family, for food is mainly produced upon his own land, and not subject to the changes of the money market; neither is he subject to those pangs of conscience which must at times harass those whose "business it is to cheat each other for a living." Consequently his appetite and digestion are good, and his sleep undisturbed and refreshing.

There is yet another cause of no small potency, in producing the farmer's great exemption from disease and death. It is the fact, that almost all who follow agricultural pursuits for a livelihood, are the offspring of parents of the same class, and their parents had been too busily occupied during their childhood to spend time in dosing them with tincture of rhubarb, paragoric, Godfrey's cordial, hot drops, soothing syrup, &c., &c, after they had crammed their stomachs with cake and confectionary, or half decayed fruit, which forms so large a part of the aliment and ailment of the children of the cities. Being exempt from these pestiferous influences, their systems have become perfectly developed, and consequently they are able to endure, without material injury, fatigue and exposure, that would destroy persons of less hardy constitutions; and if they will but avoid the sources of injury mentioned in the commencement of this article, they will insure to themselves a still longer life of health and happiness.—C. H. CLEVELAND, M. D., Waterbury, Vt.

The British Government has generously granted £50 sterling to each of the widows of the gallant men at Truro, Massachusetts, who perished in attempting to save the crew of the British barque Cephus, at that place, last spring.

Mr. ISAIAH WALLACE is going to canvass the Province for subscribers to the Visitor. This is a good movement, and we will go before him in giving our readers a few thoughts upon the benefits of Newspapers.

Those who are accustomed to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the writings of men, know the good accruing from a well conducted Newspaper to be GREAT—and the pleasure as well as advantage is not SMALL. Newspapers give us an opportunity of judging of Books, Men and Nature. Locke says tell me what books a man reads, and what company he keeps, and I will tell you what the man is. Papers give us a clue by which we can judge of the improvement in the social world—of changes in politics, religion, and moral science—they are a map of the PAST, and may be used as a chart for the FUTURE—they are the history of the world brought down to the present, with men and things delineated with skill and truth. To a family composed of youth, a good paper is invaluable, and such should always be found in every house. It is read with avidity on its first appearance, and then put carefully away for future reference. Shew us a family which regularly reads a Newspaper, and we will shew you one whose general knowledge is more than ordinary. We would say then to all on whom Mr. Wallace may call, give your name to the "Visitor," take this paper—and not only take it, but READ it.

We are glad to see that the Funeral Sermon preached by the Rev. I. E. BILL, of this city, on the death of the late Rev. E. D. VERY, is published, and may be now had at the Colporteur Depository, or at the Publishers, Messrs. Chubb & Co. We have read it with profit and pleasure, and are glad to find so valuable an appendix by the pen of the Rev. RUFUS BABCOCK, of New York. The Sermon is remarkable for its terseness, simplicity, and clearness. It sets forth in glowing colours the most important doctrines of the Bible, the Death and Resurrection of Christ—for "If Christ be not raised, our faith is vain; we are yet in our sins;" but blessed be God, as the Reverend speaker proved, "Christ is raised from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept." We hope a copy of it may reach every member of the Denomination, as we are sure the perusal will edify the reader, and excite him to follow the late beloved one, as he followed Christ. The publication of this pamphlet will endear the Rev. I. E. Bill to many who might not otherwise have had opportunity of gaining that information of the late Rev. E. D. Very as this faithful document contains. R. T.

LETTERS RECEIVED.—Lewis McDonald, with remittance; Asa Dow, do.; Obadiah Starkey, do.

Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Bible Rooms, 16 Park Place, New York.

Rev. R. Thomson, St. John, N. B. MY DEAR BROTHER,—Yours of the 22d ult. with the accompanying copies of the Visitor, have been duly received, and their perusal has afforded that melancholy kind of satisfaction, which we find in whatever awakens the tender reminiscences of dearly loved, departed friends. You ask me to send you a communication, and in the midst of the hurry and engrossments of official duties, I will snatch a few moments to record "Some recollections of the late Rev. E. D. Very." When he was nearly 13 years old, I entered on my duties as associate pastor of the first Baptist Church in Salem, Mass.—his native place. His family and connexions were attached to the congregation which I served, and I knew him as an intelligent, capable boy. Some four or five years after he was an apprentice in the adjoining town of Danvers. At just that period it was too fashionable for a large class of young men, in that vicinity, to become or pretend to be Universalists.—Many efforts, and with some appearance of success, were used to draw Edward into this snare.

I think it was in the Summer of 1831, that a season of revival was enjoyed by the Baptist Church in Danvers, then under the faithful pastoral care of Rev. J. Barnaby. I was invited to preach there one week day evening.

Young Very and a fellow apprentice with whom he was very intimate sat in the singing gallery opposite me, God sent the Word with power to the hearts of both of them. They retired to weep and pray, and mutually confess that the sandy foundation on which they had been trying to build their hope for eternity was insecure. The following day his fellow apprentice found some specious Universalist Tract, to gloss over the plain and pungent scriptural instruction which had made him tremble; and he went back, while Edward at evening sought again the house of the Lord and heard another solemn appeal from the appropriate words, "Remember Lot's Wife." This decided his case, and very soon afterward, seeking the Lord with all his heart, he found the "good hope through grace" which ever after sustained and comforted him.

From this time he became a faithful and consistent disciple, honoring the Lord, by a prompt obedience to His requirements.—From that early period, for more than twenty years he has been enabled by the sustaining grace of Christ, to keep his religious profession untarnished—to bear his lamp undimmed to the end of his course.

As soon as he could honorably procure his discharge from his employer he returned to Salem, and fitted himself for entering College. As I then occupied the presidency at Waterville, it was not strange that he chose to enter there, and most vigorous and successful were his endeavours to store his mind with useful knowledge. By uncommon diligence and assiduity he was enabled to accomplish three year's prescribed studies in two years, and actually graduated with honor at Dartmouth College (he and I having both removed from Waterville in the mean time) in two years and ten months from his entrance into the Freshman Class. If the fervor of his piety was somewhat deadened by the too intense absorption of his mind in his Collegiate studies, it is but the too uniform experience, under similar circumstances; and the honorable consistency of his Christian deportment was conscientiously preserved. He spent but one year in the Theological Seminary, and has since devoted himself, as a laborious, faithful, successful pastor, to four Churches, in each of which he has had seals of his ministry, and warm loving friends, who will now deeply mourn the common loss of Zion, in his removal.

It was in the Autumn of 1845, that I passed a few days with him, during his settlement at Belfast, Me. It gave me a better opportunity than I had before enjoyed to learn his habits of study, his method of pastoral labor, and daily intercourse among the members of his flock. With honest and unexaggerated truthfulness I can testify that rarely have I found in any of our younger Ministers so much to approve, so little to be amended.—The prudence, the fidelity, the laboriousness, and the sterling good sense, and solid ability which he demonstrated, were adapted to call forth many thanksgivings to God, and to suggest the desire—"O si sic omnes," (O that all were like him!)

I then accompanied this dear and now sainted brother to the Waldo Association, where it was delightful to witness the high appreciation of his worth by the whole body. I think he preached one of the principal sermons, and that alas! proved the last opportunity of my hearing him. Our epistolary correspondence was never frequent, but always confiding and paternal. Immediately after my return to this official station, late in the last Autumn, he had occasion to make a small remittance to the Society; and with a natural freedom which he knew would be rightly understood by his early pastor and instructor, he occupied the first two pages of his sheet with some information, personal and more general, which he was right in supposing would be most welcome and interesting.

I enclose that half sheet, that you may insert it here, if you think proper; because in these altered circumstances, what was intended for my eye alone, will now awaken tenderness, and inspire respect in many others.

St. John, N. B., November 26, 1851.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I feel much pleased to see your name announced again in connection with the Am. & For. Bible Society. I do esteem that Society very highly in love, and have laboured to keep it in the affections of the people, I trust with some good success. I don't know what Mr. Wyckoff calls a Unionist in this whole Province, Minister or Layman, nor a Minister in Nova Scotia. I have heard of a few private members in Yarmouth, which are all I have even heard of.

We have now in this Province over 70 Life Members, and a host of staunch friends. I am now just upon the close of the 4th volume of the Christian Visitor, which has advanced from 500 to 1500 subscribers, which for so limited a field, we consider doing well, and it gives good satisfaction. I have in connection with my Colporteur establishment and Depository imported and put in circulation 27,393 volumes, at a cost of between £1400 and £1500; besides my own paper I have kept in circulation for the past three years 800 copies American Messenger and 500 copies Youth's Penny Gazette, and the effect upon the Province has been most salutary. I think if you should revisit the Province you would mark the difference in every part of it. Besides my Books, Papers, and Editing, I have my Church, the Portland Church, and I was never so happy in this relation before. I have now been its Pastor five years, and it becomes increasingly dear. Last year I baptized 49 and received 11 by letter. Besides my salary they raised £140 for benevolent purposes.

I have the past year built me a house and have now a charming little home of my own, and hope with the Lord's blessing to continue my labours here. The brethren in every part of the Province have cordially entered into my plans. If you could spare a week or two next spring or summer to make me a visit my wife as well as myself would be delighted to see you or any of yours. I hope your family are well—remember me very kindly to them all.

You will excuse I know this 'boasting,' not that you have constrained me, but I hope it may gratify you, as perhaps you have not forgotten what I shall never fail to remember, your agency in my conversion and education.

(Signed, E. D. VERY.)

Once or twice more in a hurried and business way he wrote to me, and as mentioned in my note to brother Robinson, which you have already published—I was that very day on which the sad tidings of his sudden and melancholy removal from us reached me, about writing to him, for the performance of a service in the promotion of our Bible cause, which I knew it would greatly gratify him to render.

Can it indeed be so, that I shall look no more upon that noble form, that honest countenance, betokening so truly the benevolence, patience, meekness, and immovable fidelity which always characterised him—shall I hear that voice no more? Hush thy throbbings, fond heart! He, so greatly, so justly mourned, has better and more dignified employment on High. Before the throne of God and the Lamb, his spirit has already entered on the joys and praises which will never tire and never cease.

And even that form which went down beneath the gurgling waters of the mighty tides of your noble bay, in that dark hour of storm—the Saviour will one day bring with Him arrayed in unsullied brightness and glory.—And if our poor faith fail not, we shall greet him there.

The invitation to me to visit him in his pleasant home, and on which I was somewhat reckoning, for another season, since this year it was impracticable. O how shall I,—if again I pass his threshold, and greet those who by his exit are so bereaved, so desolated—how can I bear the absence of him whose presence made that home so joyous! But God, our own Heavenly Father, can and he will fulfil to the widow and the fatherless the rich promises of His own unfailing word!

Again assuring you and that family of the depth of my sympathy, I remain yours most truly,

RUFUS BABCOCK, Cor. Sec'y. Am. & For. Bible Soc.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Yarmouth, July 8th, 1852.

Rev. S. Robinson. DEAR BROTHER,—As I believe you are one of those engaged in continuing the Visitor, will you please to insert these few lines as my feeble testimony to the worth of its late beloved Editor.

The memory of the just is blessed. The righteous are held in everlasting remembrance. Our dear brother Very will not be soon forgotten. When I first saw him at Jackson-town, five years ago, he manifested towards me the kind affection of a Christian friend. At that time the Lord was leading me in a way that I knew not, I was just entering the Baptist Church, a stranger to nearly all. I had left houses and land for the gospel's sake, and went out into the world not knowing whither I was going; but my beloved brother Very, (with many others) extended to me a kind hand and a loving heart and also took a warm interest in obtaining me a place to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Not only there but ever since I found him a faithful and an affectionate friend. As a minister of Christ he deserved to be highly esteemed. His great aim was to lead his fellow men to the Saviour.