

TO AN ABSENT FRIEND.

BY CAROLINE A. HAYDEN.

How pure the spot which bears thy name
On memory's hallowed shrine;
Embalmed amid the deep regrets,
Of other hearts than mine.
No shadow flits across the mind,
Where aught we see or hear;
Reminds us of the by-gone hours,
We've spent with one so dear.

We prize thee for thy genuine worth,
Thy good and noble heart,
In which no particle of self,
Seems ever to have part.
Like streams which in the desert flow,
The influence it has shed;
Long, long shall be remembered
When thou perhaps art dead.

Could friendship give the boon she craves,
Then would'st thou here be blest;
Heaven's holiest teachings guiding thee,
To thine eternal rest.
And while with fearless steps you tread
Life's rough, uneven road;
Be thine the path that truly leads
Thee, to the throne of God.

Who would not be a Christian? Who but now
Would share the Christian's triumph and his hope?
His triumph is begun. 'Tis his to hail,
Amid the chaos of a world convulsed,
A new creation rising. 'Mid the gloom
Which wraps the low concerns of states and kings,
He marks the morning star, sees the far East
Blush with the purple dawn; he hears a trumpet
Louder than all the clangers and the clang
Of horrid war, swelling, and swelling still,
In lengthening notes, its all-awakening call,—
The tramp of Jubilee. Are there not signs,
Thunders, and voices in the troubled air?
Do ye not see, upon the mountain tops,
Beacon to beacon answering? Who can tell,
But all the harsh and dissonant sounds which long
Have been—are still—disquieting the earth,
Are but the tuning of the varying parts,
For the grand chorus which shall usher in
The hastening triumph of the Prince of Peace.
Yes; His shall be the kingdoms. He shall come,
Ye scoffers at his tarrying! Hear ye not,
Ye now, the thunder of his wheels? Awake,
Thou slumbering world! 'E'en now the symphonies
Of that blest song are floating through the air,
Peace, peace on earth, and glory be to God!
—From "The Star in the East," a Poem. By Josiah
Conder.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DONATION VISIT TO FATHER T. S. HARDING.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—On Monday morning, the 14th inst., a Committee of Ladies met at Father Harding's house, and took possession of the rooms for donation purposes. Seats were arranged for the expected visitors, and the usual preparations made for supplying them with refreshments, abundant stores being sent in by friends in the neighborhood.

Early in the afternoon the gathering began, and the house was soon filled to overflowing. It is supposed that upwards of two hundred persons visited Father H's in the course of the day. They came, not only from the immediate neighborhood, but also from New Minas, Canaan, Kentville, and Cornwallis. The gifts were various; some brought provisions—some articles of clothing—others, wood—the largest number, money. We observed also, among the gifts, an easy chair and a looking glass.

Tea and coffee, with the usual accompaniments, were handed round by a number of voluntary and cheerful waiters, from four till six o'clock. An address to Father Harding was then read by Dr. Cramp. The following is a copy:—

To the Rev. Theodore S. Harding.

Beloved Pastor.—This is a day of grateful and hallowed recollections. It brings to your mind the remembrance of manifold mercies, and of events closely interwoven with the welfare of the best cause, the cause of truth and holiness.

"At the time of your birth, in 1773, Christendom generally was in a state of slumber. Scarcely anything had been done, or was then doing, to send the gospel to the heathen. A chilling formalism prevailed among all classes, and it extended to these Provinces.

"What changes have you lived to witness? During these eighty years of your life, the Christian profession has undergone a general awakening, and the servants of God have been roused to action. Missionaries have opened their way to the East, the West, the North, and the South, sowing the good seed, and already much precious grain has been gathered in. The word of the Lord has been translated into the principal languages of the

world. By the school and the press useful knowledge, both general and religious, has been spread abroad to an extent before unexampled. You have lived in an age of marvellous effort and progress.

"In that effort you have largely shared. By the abundant mercy of God, three-fourths of your life have been spent directly in His service. You have fully preached the Gospel of Christ throughout these Provinces, and your labour has not been in vain. Wherever you have announced the glad tidings, your instrumentality has been blessed, and in times of refreshing you have beheld the power and glory of the great Head of the Church, subduing the haughty, binding up the broken in heart, and bringing multitudes to the bliss and purity of the new life. You have witnessed Pentecostal scenes, with joy unspeakable.

"At the beginning of your ministry, our denomination was small and despised. You have lived to see it become an important portion of the community, both in number and influence; and you have been identified from the beginning with the institutions, benevolent, educational, and religious, in the establishment of which its members have shown at once their patriotism and their Christian zeal.

"As members of the congregation under your immediate care, we congratulate you, esteemed and revered Pastor, on the goodness of God manifested towards you in your ministerial capacity. You have outlived most of your contemporaries and coadjutors; one after another has fallen in the field, but you are at your post, and we are still permitted to hear from your lips the words of eternal life! Though you are four score years old this day, you are graciously continued in the herald's office, the duties of which you have so long and so faithfully discharged, and with such lively satisfaction. This privilege, we hardly need remind you, has been accorded to but few.

"We congratulate you also on your domestic enjoyments. Your beloved partner has been mercifully spared to you, and participates in this day's pleasures. You have lived together in unbroken harmony during a far longer period than is ordinarily assigned to earthly unions. You have tasted the sweets of friendship, both in gladness and in grief; and you can jointly say on this occasion, 'Ebenezer—hitherto the Lord hath helped us.'

"Accept our freewill offerings, as tokens of sincere esteem and pledges of persevering attachment. It will be our pleasurable task to watch over you in your declining years, to supply your wants, and to afford you, from time to time, substantial proofs of sympathy and affection.

"May the God of all grace bless you continually with the light of his countenance; support you when flesh and heart shall fail, and grant you at length an abundant entrance into his heavenly kingdom!"

DR. CRAMP then presented to Father Harding, in behalf of the residents on the College Hill, a purse, containing £7 2s. 6d., which sum had been collected among the Students in the College, the pupils in the Academy, and the families connected with those institutions.

Father Harding replied most appropriately. Having expressed the pleasure which he felt in being surrounded by so many of his friends, and his gratitude for the practical exhibition of their kindness, he adverted to the commencement of his ministry, when he was about 21 years of age. Attending a meeting held on a Fast-day, on account of the French revolution, he was deeply impressed with a sense of duty to preach the gospel, and declared his feelings to the congregation. His public life commenced from that day. About nine months afterwards he came to Horton, and soon attached himself to the Baptists. The church was then very small. It was the only Baptist Church in the Province, but it only contained about 50 members. He had lived to bury them all. During his ministry he had often seen the power of God among the people, accompanying the preaching of the gospel. He had seen sinners in great numbers crying for mercy, groaning for redemption, and at length brought into liberty and life. Forty years ago he had baptized 700 persons; how many since, he did not know; but he believed that he had baptized more persons than any other minister in Nova Scotia. God had wonderfully upheld him in his labours and trials. The present meeting, he remarked, was a truly happy one: they

would meet again in another world—and how important to be prepared for that meeting!

Interesting addresses were delivered by the brethren Hunt and Chase. Father Harding then rose again. He wished to say a word, he observed, to encourage young preachers. He had gone through much, and laboured hard, and endured some suffering, but if he had his life to live over again, and power to choose, he would set out again in the same course. The work was so blessed, and the results so glorious, that it was to be preferred to every other engagement. He had rather be a preacher in his pulpit, than a prince on his throne. He noticed also the increased educational advantages enjoyed at the present time, and urged young preachers to avail themselves of them. He wished to be ever regarded as a warm-hearted friend to education.

Prayer and singing further diversified the proceedings. There was a pleasant mixture of the cheerful and the serious. All were glad and happy, and all manifested great interest in the special object of the meeting.

At the close of the exercises it was ascertained that £36 had been contributed in money, and that the value of the other gifts was at least £20 more.

Additional donations have been since forwarded, raising the entire amount to upwards of sixty pounds.

I am glad to observe that aged ministers are so highly esteemed in Nova Scotia. I trust they are equally upheld in New-Brinswick.

Yours truly,

AMICUS.

Wolfville, March 18, 1853.

MINISTERS' CLOAKS.

A SERMON.

Much has been said of late about ministers' salaries, ministers' libraries, and the dismissal of ministers; but nothing of ministers' cloaks.

We beg permission to say a few things on this theme. Every minister ought to have a cloak.

1st. Because it is an economical garment. No other does so great an amount of service.

2nd. It is a time-saving garment. It is adjusted upon the shoulders much quicker than any other. A moment is often very precious to a minister when called to the bed of the sick, or dying.

3d. It is a very comfortable garment; especially so for a minister, who has more use for his thoughts, than his arms. Wrapped in it he can sally forth to his great comfort, communing with himself and excluding the cold.

4th. It covers a multitude of defects in other parts of the apparel, and no one often needs such a friendly guise, than the minister.

5th. It is easily laid aside in the pulpit. There is no need of pulling and tugging, and turning the back to the audience to disengage it from the body, but it slides easily and gracefully from the shoulders.

6th. Every minister who has a cloak, is in regular apostolic succession. A cloak Paul had.

Finally. A cloak is a very impressive emblem. Christ spake of some who had no cloak for their sins. A Saviour's righteousness is the cloak which covers the sins of his people. How well suited then is the cloak to remind us of the sinner's need, and the Christian's hope.

INFERENCES. 1st. It is worthy the attention of any congregation to see that their pastor is provided with a good cloak.

2nd. None but the one who has received such a gift, knows the depth of his gratitude, when such a warm token of regard is presented him.

3rd. Had the church at Rome presented Paul a cloak, we should have been saved the vexed question of inspiration touching the one he left at Troas.

In conclusion. The writer desires to express his gratitude to two generous friends who have secured for his use a valuable cloak, originally designed for a deceased brother.

May the robe of Christ's perfect righteousness be theirs.

B. B.

Little Things.

Springs are little things, but they are sources of large streams; a helm is a little thing, but it governs the course of a ship; a bridle-bit is a little thing, but see its use and power; nails and pegs are little things, but they hold the parts of large buildings together; a word, a look, a smile,

a frown, all are little things, but powerful for good or evil. Think of this, and mind the little things. Pay that little debt; it's a promise—redeem it; it's a shilling—hand it over; you know not what important event hangs upon it. Keep your word sacredly: keep it to the children; they will mark it sooner than any one else, and the effect will probably be as lasting as life. Mind the little things.

The Last Will.

An Irish boy going one day to Bible-school, met a Popish priest who was not so averse to the Scriptures as most of his brethren are. The priest asked the boy what book it was which he carried under his arm.

"It is a will, sir," said the boy.

"What will?" rejoined the priest.

"The last will and testament that Jesus Christ left to me, and to all who desire to claim a title to the property therein bequeathed," replied the boy.

"What did Christ leave you in that will?"

"A kingdom, sir."

"Where does that kingdom lie?"

"It is the kingdom of heaven, sir."

"And do you expect to reign as a king there?"

"Yes, sir, as a joint heir with Christ."

"And will not every person get there as well as you?"

"No, sir; none can get there but those that claim their title to that kingdom on the ground of this will."

The priest asked several other questions, to which the boy gave such satisfactory answers as quite astonished him.

"Indeed," said he, "you are a good little boy; take care of the book wherein God gives you such precious promises; believe what he has said, and you will be happy here and hereafter."

But when you read the word of God, remember that you cannot understand the wondrous things in God's law until your eyes are opened by the Spirit of God. You must pray to God for his Spirit to enlighten you in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. You remember that when Hagar and her son Ishmael was cast out from the house of Abraham, the child was ready to perish for thirst, and that although there was a well of water near at hand, she knew not of it, until the Lord sent his angel to point it out to her. Therefore you must wait upon God for his Spirit.—*Pri. Ch. Magazine.*

Comfort the Mourners.

The past winter has been a severe season to parents. Sickness among children has raged to an uncommon degree. Measles, scarlet fever, canker rash, croup, whooping cough, and many other diseases incident to childhood, have carried distress and sorrow into a large number of families, while very many parents have been called to lay their little ones in the silent tomb. In many cases whole families have been stretched upon a sick bed. The most painful case that has come to our knowledge is that of Mr. Ebenezer Maxum, residing just over the line in our village. On the 2d inst., George, only son, in his 6th year, died; 10th, Andrew T., a brother, aged 17; same day, Sarah E., daughter, in her 5th year; 13th, Marietta F., daughter and only remaining child, in her 3d year. Thus in a few days four members of the family are removed to another world. We commend the survivors to the sympathy.—*Fall River Monitor.*

The Three Conditions of Believers.

They were "dead in sins." "Enemies to God. Children of wrath." They are reconciled to God, regenerated, washed, sanctified, obedient children, delight in the Lord, walking in love and in fellowship of the Spirit. They will be saved eternally, crowned with glory and immortality at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Happy believers! mightily delivered, gloriously saved, and waiting for glory's crown. Be faithful and soon you will wear it.

Order and obedience, morality and power, are all in Britain connected with the observance of the Sabbath. Amidst the activity which pervades all things, the bustle of the towns, and the energy with which the inhabitants pursue their earthly callings, what would become of them if they had not a day's rest in which to recruit themselves, and laying aside things temporal, which are seen, to look forward to things eternal, which are unseen?—*Dr. Merle D'Aubigne.*

A kind act or look is never lost, and seldom forgotten, for the sweet memories of the past are constantly coming back to cheer the gloom of the present.

—"Often a look or smile,
Forgotten in a kiss's while,
Years after from the dark will start,
And flash across the trembling heart."