

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR, affords an excellent medium for advertising

For the Christian Visitor. THE MORAL OF THE SNOW-FLAKES.

Slowly, slowly came the snow-flakes, With a soft, unconscious tread, As they feared to wake the blossoms-Wake the blossoms newly dead.

Gently falling, falling, falling, Borne on Winter's icy wing, Clasped their stainless pearly ingers Round the stern old Forest-king.

Robed him in a spotless mantle, Spite his murmurs to the air; Spite his strivings, strong and many, To shake off the burden fair.

Decked the earth with winter's jewels : Hid the barren, flowerless plain; Whispered softly-from its slumber Spring should bid it wake again.

Lingered of the singing brooklet, Wept themselves into the wave; Wove upon the fallen leaflet Garments for its winter grave.

But the winds rebuked the brightness Of the gnarled and ancient tree, For they could not bear the whiteness Where the verdure used to be.

And they mourned and sighed together, Sighed for all the beauty past ; Knew not that the snow-clad heather Hid it from the wintry blast.

Thus on human hearts' Elysian Fall the snow-flakes cold, though fair; And, although they veil our vision, Blessings always cluster there.

Yet we feel not God who sendeth Doubts and shadows from above, Cannot see the Hand which blendeth Hope with sorrow-pain with love.

But at length shall New Year brighten, Brighten to the perfect spring; And our stained hearts shall whiten 'Neath the joys such blessings bring

To the soul shall come a morning When the snows will melt away : And flowers shall blossom in the dawning Of that life's eternal May ! H. M. D. St. John, Dec. 21, 1862

From the Morning Star. PRES. FAIRFIELD'S LETTERS.-No. 5.

Antwerp-old and new styles of architecture-fashions-the cathedral-Rubens' paintings-his tomb-the paint-ing of his family-call of St. Andrew-Romanism-Hol-land, its canals-defended by the sea-Botterdam-Erasmus birth place-Hague-assaults of AMSTERDAM, Oct. 14, 1863.



New Series, Vol. I., No. 52.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1863.

and cathedral of Antwerp. Here, if not in the dress of the peasant women, is genuine æsthe-

The Cathedral is known through the world for the possession of three masterpieces of Rubensthe elevation of Christ on the cross, and his de-scent. I have seen some pictures which were said to be very costly, but which, to my unpractised eye, presented little that was impressive. Not so in these.—I stood in the presence of Calvary, and saw the deed done which has made that summit the dearest spot on earth to every redeemed sinner. And then the dead body is taken down -and it is a dead body-you see it; life is quite gone; the muscles are nerveless; head and hands hang down, and the whole body is powerless to help itself. And it is the body too of one who help itself. And it is the body too of one who has died by violence; the purple lips, and eyes and chin and cheeks, the blood in spots, and the open wounds.—And then the sheet which re-ceives the body, is a real sheet, and was just now unspotted.—And the face still wearing the expres-sion of agony, which has not yet given place to the calm repose which comes afterward. In the church of St. Andrew I saw another picture of Christ heing laid in the security language. of Christ being laid in the sepulchre—I know not by whom it was painted. In that the face of Christ had put on the expression of the divine peace and screnity which comes after a while, but which is never seen on the face of the devoutest believer the first moment after a terrible physical suffering has ended in death. For Rubens' Christ to have even this smile of the angels would have been against all nature and all fact. The great painter was too good an artist to commit such a blunder.

Two other pictures by the same artist :-- "The assumption of the Virgin," and "The resurrection

of Christ," belong to the same Cathedral. The church of St. Jacques is, if possible, a still greater object of interest to the lover of art than the cathedral itself; for here lie the remains of the painter, and of all who bear his name. His family has become extinct; twenty persons belonging to it are buried in one of the chapels in this church. His second wife, who survived him, was again married, and two of her descendants have splendid sculptured monuments deposited here.

A marble statue of the mother of Christ, purchased in Italy by Rubens himself for this chapel, is much admired. 1 did not have light enough to form an opinion of it—that is, to tell how it affected me; for this is all the uninitiated are allowed to do, and they ought not to deserve more. But that Rubens bought it is evidence of its value. I did have just the light to see the picture of Rubens' family, painted by himself, which is the chief adornment of this chapel. I cannot conceive of anything finer. It has seven figureslife-size. They are his two wives, his daughter, his father, grand-father, a nephew, and also a cousin and her child. Of course the superstitious Romanists must mar the simple beauty of the fact that the great painter lovingly painted his own dear ones; and so they spiritualize (?) and allegorize this beautiful family group, calling it the "Holy family," and telling you that the cou-sin and the sweet babe are Mary and the child Jesus-the two wives are the "other two Marvs" -the father is St. Joseph, the grandfather Tirde, and I have forgettee who the densitier and the little nephew were tortured to represent. Indeed, I have recalled more of this stuff that the janitor told me than I supposed possible, for I heard it with little patience or profit. For ought I know, the daughter might have been Elizabeth, and the roguish little nephew might have been John the Baptist; at all events he was like him in one respect-having no other clothing than a girdle about his loins. The church guide told me, however, when I asked about it, that the pictures were accurate portraits of the family, and so intended to be. In this church are most beautifully executed white marble statues of the twelve apostles, standing on pedestals of what we call in America Tennessee marble—being the same in kind and color as that used in finishing the Capitol, espe-cially in the marble room at Washington. These statues are by the first artists living and dead, and cost 600 francs each. One of the windows represents the "Salutation of the Virgin," a beautiful and life-like execution. The window was put in in 1600. A late painting of Christ talking to the disciples on their way to Emmans, will render its author immortal. The face of Christ is but little nferior to that executed by Raphael, and the characteristic expression of the two disciples so. distinctly marked that you would know them at once, and know that their heart burned within them. Indeed, you can almost see what the subect is of their conversation. Christ bearing the cross, by Van Dyck, and a Christ bearing the cross, by Van Dyck, and a most life-like portrait, by the same hand; offer-ings to the infant Christ, by Bahler, the Last Judgment, by Van Estie; the Martyrdom of St. Mark, by F. M. D. Vos, in 1599; Christ lying dead, by Van Dyck; picture of the Staying of the Plague in Milan by the Virgin, in answer to the prayers of one of the Saints, are among the other celebrities found in this church. The altars in marble, are of unsurpassed beauty, and were executed at immense expense. The church of St. Andrew has also some exdingly fine paintings and sculptures, of which I may mention the martyrdom of St. Andrew. the Last Supper, by Francke, a portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots, besides one already alluded to. The chief object of interest in this church, how-ever, is a carved wooden pulpit, which must be seen to be understood, at the foot of which is seen to be understood, at the foot of which is a carving in wood representing "the call of St. Andrew."—The figures are life-size. Peter sits in his fishing-boat; Christ stands near it; the net in the boat is full of fishes, and also a basket on the shore, which Andrew has not unbudded; and now returning for more, he stands with one foot on the edge of the boat, as he hears the call of Christ. All this in wood—the faces full o. -the fish real, the net without any appearance of art, and the boat one that you othing in wood to equal it. beive of anything to surpass Andrew is specially honored mes of Peter and his brother, a church narble stare superior to any there are distinct Augustine, ch of St. Pa y repay

If you ask what of this toward the end of religion, you know my answer. Romanism is only one of the forms of heathenism. Its religion is as good perhaps as Brahminism; probably not a whit better. Their senseless mummeries are as acceptable as those of the Pharisee of old; and will give you a broad hint that you are mean to there is as much chance of their salvation as of the inhabitants of Orissa, without the gospel, though much less probability of their ever embrac-have apparently acknowledged his claim without though much less probability of their ever embrac-ing it. As they have made collections of works fully meeting it. Two details toold and det of art, however, I see them and study them, as I At Hague a "commissioner" assailed me :--

too serious a matter to feel humorous over) ridi-culous ceremonies, to render any description ne-cessary.

In speaking of the cathedral, I ought to have mentioned its steeple, one of the loftiest in the world, and one of the finest without doubt. It is a little more than 400 feet high, and is of such beautiful and delicate workmanship that Charles V. remarked of it that it deserved to be kept in case; and Napoleon compared it to Mechlan lace.

Antwerp have erected a bronze statue of the painter who honoured this city with his residence, whose works more than anything else give it its celebrity, and whose tomb is among them to this day. And now, if I write anything of Holland, it must be in this letter. And of so wonderful a country it were certainly fitting to write some-thing. I have made a tarry at only three of these cities, but have travelled two or three hundred miles on slow trains, and by daylight, on

ruinous to the hopes and prosperity of any coun. In the town of Zaandem, I was told there were try, has been by them turned greatly to their ad-six hundred. I don't believe it. But it is very vantage. You will see how. The sea being first certain that if Don' Quixote's valorous Sancho

Dutch an epistle to-day, he would, without any hyperbole; sign himself "Most truly, your obe-dient humble servant." And an exceedingly val-

scarcely equal the three. And they are full of and philebotomize to their heart's content, because statuary, the most costly and superb. I have yet to pay the first farthing for black mail thus levied, but I just met an American who was groaning over the way in which these fellows had bled him to the

6 http://www.annerstern

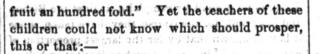
would in a heathen temple, though with less gra-tification than in an ordinary museum. "No sir, I thank you, I do not need any assistance." Americans are, unfortunately, sufficiently ac- "First the Musee, then the Palace, all the city quainted with their idolatrous and (were it not for two shillings, sir!" "No, sir; I told you I

> duced to one and sixpence, and then to one shil-ling (understanding, of course, an English shilling, which is 24 cents), and you can conceive how I which is 24 cents), and you can conceive how 1 came pretty near writing that word annoying. But still he followed me for a quarter of a mile; then another, and so one after another, until six persons had thus assaulted me. I then tried an expedient which has since proved invaluable—*I* said nothing *I*. Before I got through the Hague I was attacked by two others; but following Solomon's counsel, " Let thine eyes look right on, and thine eyelids straight before thee," I proved its genuine wisdom | And you see how, in whatever language the guide accosts me, he soon con-cludes that I don't understand it, and it is all right; or that I am deaf, as I heard one saying, and that is just as well. I know a commissioner

will give me a vote of thanks for this recipe.

walled out by dykes, is allowed afterwards to come in just as they need it, and just as they can use it. Thus, instead of allowing the waters to lord it over them, they have reduced them to entire sub-jection, and if Neptune were addressing the Dutch ar apaitile to day. he water addressing the Dutch ar apaitile to day. he water addressing the work of its sister elements-fire and water.

"This trip through Holland has been exceedingly pleasant and instructive. And the beautiful uable servant they find him to be. Digging canals wherever they choose, the old sea-god fills them at their bidding, and thus they have the best and cheapest transportation in the world. enough to be happy ; humble but home-like farm houses, with the little farms attached, owned by the occupant-these visions will not soon be for gotten has merer in to perform and has Lautriga and with the test



A gentleman told the story of a boy who had been a member of a Sabbath school somewhere at the East, who was taken West and bound out to a farmer in a neighbourhood where there were no Sunday school and no religions services of any kind. The boy was exceedingly uneasy, and felt that he could not live so. He heard of a missionary fifteen miles off, and he resolved to go and see him, and ask him to come and organize a Sabbath school. So away he trudged all the fifteen miles on foot, and had a wide river to cross, to see the missionary. He spread before him the condition of the neighbourhood, and begged him to come and start a Sabbath school. The missionary came; a Sabbath school was started; and now, said the speaker, in that place, where there were no Sabbath school and no means of grace, there is a church of forty members. So much a little boy can do.

Another gentleman from the West said he vould relate a case somewhat similar. An Eastern little boy was bound out to an old farmer, who became very much attached to him; but he perceived the boy was very disconsolate. He asked what was his trouble? The lad said he had no Sabbath school to go to, and no church, and he could not live so.

The old man said, ""Here is so much money : see how much others will give, and we will have books, and organize a school, if that is what you want.

The neighbours contributed ; but some doubted about starting the school, for there was no one to open it with prayer. The lad said he would pray if no one else would; so the school was opened. The speaker said he would make a long story short by saving that not long afterward, that old man of eighty and that little boy were sitting together at the same communion table to celebrate the sufferings and death of our ever blessed and adorable Saviour, who came to seek and save the lost, the old and the young.

THE SANCTUARY AND THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

As long as a young man comes regularly to the house of God on the Sabbath, there is some prospect of his conversion. But when he no longer frequents the Sanctuary, he seems to be thrown beyond the range of the truth, and the Spirit's influence, and rushes to ruin. Says Daniel Webster:--

I once defended a man charged with the awful crime of murder. At the conclusion of the trial I asked him what could induce him to stain his with the blood of a fe

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"Hold fast the form of sound words." 2d Timothy, i. 13.

In the square, near the cathedral, the people of

purpose to have the best possible opportunity of seeing it at large. I write this from the border line which separates Holland from Germany 695 of these piles. Nearly three hundred bridges (Roosendaal). The largest part of Holland is cross its numerous canals. On approaching the below the level of the sea; and, strange to say, city the most conspicuous thing are the wind-this fact, which at first would seem to be most mills around it. Holland is full of these mills.

The readers of the Star will not understand me as giving a connected history of my ram-blings; but only sketches here and there of some

points of interest, that I may have time and in-clination to transfer to paper. Antwerp, in Belgium, is a spot which it would be difficult for me to forget, and yet which is not very easy to describe, so as to transfer to others the impression received; for it is as the home of art that I felt special interest in visiting it. But first I will speak of a few of the externals which can be easily understood.

The city has a hundred thousand inhabitants. and three hundred years ago is said to have had twice as many. That was the height of its pros-perity. It is strongly fortified—so strongly that it is difficult to see how an enemy could possibly get possession against a small force furnished with modern artillery.—The starving out of those within by a long size would be the only practiwithin by a long siege, would be the only practiable method.

The buildings present that striking appearance which you can hardly conceive of without having seen it, resulting from the comminging of the different styles of architecture which have prevailed during five hundred years. In our own country we have no old houses. They are torn down to give place to new ones in new styles. Here are hundreds of good houses yet looking fresh by constant repair, that were erected in the

The streets, like those of most old cities in Europe and America, do not seem to have been aid out, but to have come by chance .-- Yet with a little map in hand, I made my way from place to place without a guide, and without asking a question, or losing my way; for the name of the street is distinctly given on every corner. The buildings, with their various styles of architectare, are not quite so grotesque and amusing as the dress of the market women, who sell their the dress of the market women, who sell their apples by the side of them. They all wear caps as in Belgium generally; but here for the first time, as often since, I noticed those strange ap-pendages to the side of their head-dress which you may call "lapels." If you conceive of lace-work about the size and shape of a large pair of elephant's ears, extending forward and downward from the ears of the wearer, you will have a very

good ides of this mode of ornamentation (?) And now, while I have this subject on my may speak of the bonnets of some of the Dutch I may speak of the bonnets of some of the Dutch women; for you see that I am in Holland. I I have thought it was well for my good manners that I am just now travelling alone, for if I had had some one in my company that appreciated the ludicrous, I might possibly have been betrayed into a smile at some of the fashions which make their appearance in the street and in the cars. Imagine, for example, our ladies' "shakers," tipchind at an angle of forty-five degrees, forward two inches of the bonnet itself turned up so as to form a right angle with the top, and you will have one of those sights to which a traveller is admitted without paying a These worthy dames are also very fond of jew-bry. Three or four sat in the same car with me

ry. Three or four sat in the same car with me esterday, who may now set a minute for their icture. First, a heavy glittering breast-pin; se-ond, heavy, large and long car-drops; third, we or three or four strings of showy blads, fast-med by a clasp about the size and shape of third in egg-shell divided lengthwise; fourth, a gold (f) on the side of the head, extendin

rs to the eyes, a part covered t e part protruding of the a thers' bureaus used to wear. nitric acid, and it m of it have endured such a test without at

old Catholic in some weather a The ex-

Dividing and sub-dividing, and digging still other and smaller canals and ditches, until they are found only a few rods apart, they water the whole land, and still they are filled to the brim at the bidding of the government. "These are our riches," said an intelligent Hollander to me a few days ago; and they are so, evidently.

And then the sea is their great defence .- Neptune is made to do his own work, and that of Mars havide. If their and a shart in in upon them like a flood, they have only to sweep them out with another. With the sea turned in upon them, what could they do ?

Some portions of the country are covered with white pine; and in these the soil is sandy and light, but for the most part it is fruitful, and seems to be cultivated with skill. The houses of the peasants have a comfortable and cozy appearance. The cities to which I have referred are well supplied with canals; and they present a busy ""I am in no profession, my Lord," & appearance at this season of the year. Indeed, replied it is battogen as multipleas to they seem to be to a great degree a substitute for all other places of trade, and modes of convey-

all other places of trade, and modes of convey-ance through the city. If a man buys a bushel of potatoes, it is not from a provision store, but from a canal boat that lies at his door. If he purchases a ton of coal, it is delivered, not by a cart, but a boat. The streets are not full of wag-gons, but of water. For myself, I prefer even the noise of wheels to these complement canals. In noise of wheels to these omnipresent canals. In his native shores, for the purpose of recruiting a picture they look well; but in the real presence his feeble bodily frame, he designed to remain of them, there is little of poetry and less of for a time in retirement; but Providence ordered beauty. At Rotterdam I was interested in seeing the saw him in the streets of that city, on his way to house in which that learned man, but timid re- the Methodist chapel. A conference having been

upon the market square. The church of Saint Lawrence is an old and venerable one, erected in the fiftcenth century. From its high steeple (and two hundred feet is high when you are called to the labour of reaching it by a flight of stone steps) a fine view is had of the whele city and of

steps) a fine view is had of the whele city and of its surroundings. Hague is the capital of Holland. You would scarcely expect to find a Dutch town the neatest and handsomest of all; and yet it is so. It it is solution in the gap, what were scarcely expect to find a Dutch town the neatest it is so. It it is solution in the gap, what were it is solution in the gap, what were it is providentially called to preach. He leaves his seat, ascends the pulpit, seems like a holiday city, dressed every day in and soon announces the hymnits Sunday attire ; streets clean, quiet, airy, with here and there an open square or little park; and just out of the city as beautifully shaded

in offering you their services was at first amusing, and in the end—I had almost written annoying, but this will not do, for a traveller must set out with a full determination not to be annoyed at anything. At Antwerp I was making my way through the city with the aid only of my little map, and had reached the cathedral, when a "" the occasion, by the preacher's aspect, pale, ema ciated, extremely youthful, by his eloquence of the purest kind, may be imagined, but cannot be described. It proved a precious season to num-bers, an era in their religious experience. Summerfield's first speech in this country, at r "commissioner" tipped his hat, and bowing po-litely, said in blandest tones: "Did you wish to litely, said in blandest tones: "Did you wish to see the church, sir?" "Yes, sir, I came for that purpose," I replied, and walked on toward the door. "This is the way, sir; it will cost you a franc; tickets there, sir." "Yes, sir; I under-stand all about it; I am much obliged to you, but I don't need any guide." "All right, sir; this is the door; tickets there, sir; I was only showing you, sir!" And he followed main. I showing you, sir !" And he followed me in. I somewhat wearied by the protracted exercises, commenced looking at the pictures when, excommenced looking at the pictures when, ex-tending his hand, he said: "Something for the guide, sir!" I made no reply. "Something for the guide, sir!" I made no reply. "Something for the guide, sir!" with an air of assumption, as if he would make the impression upon the one or two persons standing near that it was all under-stood, and that I had employed him for the ser-vice. "Not a centume, sir; (that is a French coin, equal to one-fifth of an American cent), I told you I did not want a guide; now leave me, sir, if you please." "I tell you, something for the guide, sir; do you want me to show you here for nothing, sir !" "You will leave me instantly, sir; or I will put you into the hands of a police-

INCIDENTS IN SUMMERFIELD'S LIFE.

Being in attendance at one of the courts sin Dublin, as a witness against a person wishing to amined and cross-examined by an eminent law ver with the intention of so puzzling him as to des-troy the value of his testimony. The design was unsuccessful. Able to recal dates and payments, sales and purchases, pounds, shillings and pence. "Pray, sir, what is your profession ?" inquired

the judge. " I am in no profession, my Lord," Summerfield

"No profession | no profession, do you say

former, Erasmus, was born. His statue stands in session, the usual notice that a stranger would

Attantata" God moves in a mysterious way.

and just out of the city as beautifully shaded walks or carriage drives as the most exquisite could ask. In entering this city I found myself beset, as never before, by professional guides, or "commis-sionaires," as they are termed, whose persistence in offering you their services was at first amusing, and just out of the city as beautifully shaded for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." The effect of this dis course, aided by the peculiar circumstances of

his blood shot eyes full upon me, he replied, in a voice of despair, "Mr Webster, in my youth I spent the holy Sabbath in evil amusements instead of frequenting the house of prayer and praise." Could we go back to the early years of all hardened criminals, I believe, yes, firmly be-lieve, that their departure from the path of morality was when they abandoned the Lord's house

on the Lowd's desired was once preaching to the convicts in the prison at Sing Sing, N. Y They were confined to their cells .--- " As many of you," said he, "as think that you have been brought to this place by neglecting the Sanctuary on the Sabbath day rap on the gates of your cell." Immediately there was a general rap, which echoed through the prison. That melancholy report told the story of abused Sabbaths, and abused Sanctuaries ; and should be a "dreadful sound in the ears" of every neglecter of public Divine worship.

The experienced Chaplain of the Government Model Prison, London, the Rev. Joseph Kingswell, bears the following testimony, corroborative of these views. He says :---

The influence of the Sabbath upon the public morals is attested by the every-day experience of persons in my peculiar position. We are called to minister in a prison to few but Sabbath-breakers. The fourth commandment is united closely, not only with the precepts which relate to God, but with those which, refer to man. The connection between voluntary Sabbath-breaking and filial disobedience, for instance, is strongly marked; and little less so with unchastity and dishonesty. The young person who casts off the fear of God pays little respect to parental anthority, and, of course, little to any other; and dissipation creating wants beyond means, parents and employers are pilfered from, and a career of ruin is begun, as costly to the state as it is destructive to the happiness of individuals and families. "The usual process," said the late Chaplain of Clerkenwell Gaol, (speaking of the descent into crime of about 100,000 prisoners), "has been impatience of parental restraint, violation of the Sabbath, and the neglect of religious ordinances. I do not recollect a single case of capital offence, where the party has not been a Sabbath-breaker. Indeed, I may say, in reference to prisoners of all classes, that in nineteen cases out of twenty, they are persons who have not only neglected the Sabbath, but all religious ordinances." This accords with the results of my own observation. Zion's Advocate.

A SKEPTIC REFUTED .- "Ah," said a skeptical ollegian to an old Quaker, "I suppose you are one of those fanatics who believe the Bible ?" Said the old man-"I do believe the Bible. Does thee believe

the their divis "No; I can have no proof of its truth." Then," inquired the old man, " does thee be-

lieve in France ?" "Yes; for although I have not seen it, I have Basides, there is plenty seen others who have. Besides, there is plenty of corroborative proof that such a country does exist." "Then thee will not believe anything thee on

others has not seen ?" " No." will desired "Did thee ever see thy own brains?" "Ever see a man who did see them ?"

"Does thee believe thee has any ?"

This last question put an end to the disc sion.—American Sentinel.

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