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MEMORIAL SKETCH OF ASAHEL BILL, OF NICTAUX, N. S. By his Father. (Extracted from the " Christian Messenger" of March, 1848.)

TO THE EDITORS : NICTAUX, February 14, 1848.

I have recorded some of the reminiscences of the short, but in some respects, eventful life and triumphant death of our much lamented son Asahel, which I send to you. If you perceive anything in them of public utility, you will oblige me by giving them a place in your valuable paper. The reader will pardon the occasional ebullition of parental affection interspersed in the narrative. He was our first born, and the amiability of his character, the docility of his disposition, his prompt and cheerful obedieuce, together with the possession of talents of a high order, had all con-spired to render him the idol of our affections, The reader, therefore, must not be surprised if the portrait of such a son, when drawn by a father, should be to some extent tinged with the father's love.

It may be thought that I have gone too much into detail, and dwelt at too great a length upon circumstances comparatively trivial; but it will be remembered that every incident in the life of a departed friend, tenderly beloved, however trivial or unimportant in itself, is always pondered with intense interest by those who live to deplore their loss. I felt that I was called upon faithfully to record his delinquencies in a religious point of view, as a beacon for others in similar circumstan ces, and to show also that it is not enough that young professors of the religion of the cross merely abstain from those practices which are regarded as disreputable and improper in the judgment of irreligious men : but if they would preserve their consciences in peace, they must shun the appearance of all evil, and maintain the dignity of their christian profession by a close walk with their Saviour.

Affectionately and sincerely, yours, I. E. BILL.

EDITORIAL REMARKS.

We have seldom read a more interesting sketch of Christian Biography than the one we insert in our present number, from the pen of our valued brother, Rev. Ingram E. Bill. It might naturally be expected to contain no small degree of interest. for it is the tribute of an affectionate Christian father to the memory of a beloved son. Whatever indeed might relate to such a son, could not but be interesting. He was a youth of fine natural talents, much improved by early and sedulous culture, and for several years of his life living under the influence of motives which must necessarily have imparted a new and exalted value to parental regard, we meet, as we might expect. every feeling of natural love forcibly developed, with all the still more powerful and overruling tendencies of a mind illuminated by spiritual perceptions, brought to bear upon the deeply engrossing subject under review. The slight acquaintance which we ourselves enjoyed with the subject of the memoir, enables us to appreciate in some degree what must have been the feelings of the writer. We can well recollect the pleasure we experienced two years since at the annual exhibition of the College at Horton, and the im-pressions we received from the highly creditable evidence of opening talent displayed by the young graduate, having then just completed the course of mental discipline which was to prepare him, as it was fondly thought by his numerous friends, for the arduous scenes and duties of fature life. We mean not, indeed we need not, attempt to offer a word to enhance the interest of the obituary itself. To all who read it, and especially to those who were at all acquainted with the peculiar circumstances of the case, anything we could say with such a view would tend rather to take away than add to the interest it must excite. There are, however, a few thoughts of a general nature which the subject itself suggests, which we think may be useful in a practical point of view. We may learn from this, as from other similar instances, how invsterious are the ways of the Lord. A youth of high promise, the child of many prayers, after years spent in anxious preparation for some field of future usefulness and activity; at the very moment of its accomplishment, is cut down by the hand of death. Our duty under so dark and distressing a dispensation, however difficult in point of performance, and however often referred to, is nevertheless plain and certain. Humble and cheerful submission to the behest of Him who does all things' for the best-the eternal interests of his people-is what we are called on to exercise. The facts of the case before us are striking, as demonstrating the reality of religion. The principle of saving faith is planted in the soul by God himself, and nourished and kept alive there under the most adverse influences, and notwithstanding the natural de-pravity of the heart, the wiles and devices of Satan, and the temptations of an ensnaring world : the whole of them oftentimes besetting the soul with their united forces, and even for a time rendering it, in spite of its struggles, in a measure subject to its sway. In the final issue, however, all these hostile influences are trodden down, the soul is released as a bird from the suare of the fowler-the heavenly principle asserts its supre-macy, and the subject of divine grace triumphs in a complete and enduring victory. The truth and candour apparent on the face of tion it conveys. Not all the fondness and partially of a parent can offer a sufficient temptation to conceal the infirmities or the sins of a beloved child. As in the Book of Truth, where instances of personal character are described, the whole truth is told. Faithfulness to God, to the memory of the departed believer, and to the souls of survivors, demanded this. The beloved youth, now for ever removed from the scenes of earth, sought not when living to conceal his wanderings and departures from God; nor are they sought to be concealed or glossed over now that he is gone, by in his character. of the truly Christian mind in regard to sin. How



WE & PARKE SUP

"Hold fast the form of sound words."-

Christian

2d Timothy, i. 13.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1865.

formed no excuse in his mind, or lessened the poignancy of his regret for past negligence. Surely, then, the truth is too obvious for a moment's doubt, that those who read the deep exercises of soul of this lamented youth, and yet are themselves destitute of religion; who live without prayer for torgiveness, or remorse of conscience, while God is not in all their thoughts, and his plain and positive commands are flagrantly and openly, and it may be hourly, sinned against with a high hand, have reason to tremble.

We cannot but trust that the chief design which, it is evident, the valued brother who penned this Obituary had in view, in a brief relation of the life and death of a beloved child, may be blessed of God to the spiritual good of many of our youthful readers. Especially that his class-mates and vouthful associates, who were warmly attached to him in lite, and deeply mourned his death, may be induced, in view of the striking instance before them, to yield up their hearts to God, that whatever may await them here, they may at last partake of that eternal rest which, we doubt not, is now the inheritance of the friend they have lost.

ASAHEL BILL, the subject of this memoir, was born in Billtown, Cornwallis, May the 14th, 1827. As soon as he became capable of thought and reflection, he gave indications of an aptitude for the acquisition of knowledge, and of a thirst for books. His memory at that age was very retentive-so much so, that before he could read a word he had treasured up many pages both of prose and verse, which he was accustomed to repeat with much apparent pleasure, merely from hearing them read or repeated by his mother. In his fifth year he commenced going to school, and for several years during his early youth continued to apply himself with unusnal assiduity and success under different instructors ; his progress being such as to give the most entire satisfaction to parents and teachers.

On my removal to Fredericton, which took place when Asahel was in his 13th year, I placed him at the Baptist Seminary there, then under the able superintendence of Mr. C. D. Randall, now Principal of the Collegiate Academy at Wolfville. He was with Mr. Randall about a year and a halt, during which period his progress was such as to prepare him to enter upon a College course. At Fredericton, he professed an experimental acquaintance with religion. At a very early period of life, he discovered symptoms of strong religious impressions. As soon as he became capable of conversation, it was apparent that his mind was often dwelling on spiritual things, and as his mental faculties expanded, these impressions increased. Death and heaven were subjects to which he listened with great interest. When he was in his fourth year, the death of the Rev. T. H. Chipman occurred at Nictaux. He seemed deeply affected on the occasion. It suggested to him the idea that his mother might die also. This thought greatly alarmed him. So powerful was this impression at the time that his sleeping as well as his waking powers appeared to be engrossed with the thoughts of another world-and what seemed still more striking was, that associated with these early religious impressions, was a desire to be

a preacher of the gospel. Long before he entertained any hope that he was converted to God, when asked what he wanted to be if he lived to be a man, his reply invariably was, "A preacher of the Gospel." So much did this subject occupy his mind, that he was in the practice of amusing his school associates during the daily recess, by going through the ceremony of singing, praying, and preaching, in a manner which, to his audience, composed as it was of children about his own age, was highly interesting. I may all his purposes and actions. . In such a record of here remark that these exercises were engaged in not for the purpose of turning sacred things into ridicule, but to give vent to emo-

dence in the Saviour was greatly weakened-so much so, as he informed me himself after his return home, that during his last two terms at College, he abandoned all hope that he had ever been converted savingly to the truth. This state of mind is by no means peculiar to a College life, -- it is a melanch in fact that it is by far too general with young professors, and is 2 and to be a very serious drawback upon the prosperity of our churches. During his last term at College, I was informed that all was not right in reference to his religious course. I immediately addressed a letter to him, in which I strongly urged him to repent of his backslidings, and to return to his Saviour. This letter contained the following appeal :--

" If you have thus been led astray, my dear boy, I call upon you by the love of your parents' hearts, by the unnumbered prayers which they have offered to heaven for yon, by the admonitions which you have recived from them from earliest childhood up to the present time, by the solemn profession which you have made in the sight of God, by the prospect of a dying hour, and a judgment-day, humbly to confess your faults to your parents and to your God, and to forsake every sinful practice now and forever. have written this plain letter not for the purpose of wounding your feelings, but to remind you that those who watched over you from childhood with all the fondness and anxiety of parental affection, are still caring for you, and are so interested in every step you take, that nothing can inflict so much pain on them as to know that you are doing ill; and nothing excites such a thrill of joy in their bosoms a to know that in all respects you are doing well."

This letter was sent to him a short time before he closed his College Course. His reply throughout was of the most gratifying character. The following are extracts :

" My Dear Parents : With feelings of the deepest emotion I am now addressing you. My father's letter has caused a paug of sorrow and anguish impossible to describe."

He then proceeds in the most open and frank manner to confess his delinquencies, and in the strongest terms to deplore his back-slidings, and closes his letter with the following touching sentence :--

" I have erred, but I confess it, and beg forgiveness both from my parents and from my Maker; and if the remainder of my life spent in the most bitter repentance, can atone in the slightest degree for my sins, I say from the bottom of my heart it shall be given. My emotions are too strong to allow me to say more."

I give the above extracts for the purpose of showing that although he had backslidden from God, he was not hardened in sin. Although he had strayed from the narrow way, he still felt that it was a bitter thing to disobev the Almighty : and that when aroused to a just perception of his obligations, he deeply deplored the past, and firmly resolved to cleave again to the mercy seat. Having completed his college course, he graduated in June, 1846, in the 20th year of his age. On his return home he was looking thin in flesh ; but we supposed this was occasioned by very close application during his last term, that a little recreation would soon recruit him, and that he would ere long be able to enter upon some useful employment; but how were we distressed to find that he was the subject of a cough, which seemed exceedingly stubborn, and that day after day, and week after week, passed away without producing the slightest improvement in his health. We had learnt from his own letters and from other sources, that he had several any thing serious. But it soon became apparent that there was

among those who are permitted to be the happy means of raising. your thoughts above a world now perhaps rapidly sliding from beneath you; with those who have communed with a spirit that shortly, it may be, will commune with spirits above, without a veil between. I hope I do not distress you by sceming to assume too much on your account. I trust you are penitent, I trust you are Pray for me, my father." I offered prayer in his persuaded of the faithfulness of God : if so, you hear Him saying in Christ, 'Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out,' and this voice you perceive to be cheering, and just applicable to you; what then is this but 'the way, the truth, and the life ?' The past doubtless has much to deplore, and yet what can the past be that may not be turned into occasion of repentance, and so of faith in Him who saves the penitent. I rejoice therefore in the hope that you have hope, and that this hope is Christ. What can we wish for you better or happier than this, except indeed that this hope may grow stronger and stronger.

{ Old Series Vol. XVIII., No. 50.

Dizitor.

'I can imagine how in the midst of weariness and weakness the enemy may often intrude with his wily insinuations, always in some shape directed against the sinner's remedy, to lessen its value or deny its applicability. May you, my dear Asahel, be strengthened still to trust. 'The blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin.' What intense meaning is here; what intense meditation, what intense confidence docs it merit.

"I wish, dear Asahel, to say one thing while you are here on earth ; and yet perhaps it is foolish to wish it. I have always felt ever. I feel now that I can put my whole trust towards you, from the first time I saw you a little boy at your father's, a peculiar regard. It increased in strength when you first came to reside here; and more at your second visit, when you came as one having found the Lord, and if it suffered disappointment for a time, it now increases with accelerated force as I think of your suffering under the hand of the Lord, and yet sustained. blessedly sustained, by that same hand. I love to think of you, to hear of you, and to pray for you; and if there are any moments when you can use your pen, how deeply interested and rejoiced I should be to hear from you.

"I hope these allusions to your enfeebled state may not seem to you as though I took no interest in your recovery. It is not so I feel the deepest interest in it. Few would hail the hope of it with more joy. But then I know how uncertain is life, especially to one such as you are, and I feel how needful it is both for you with him, "Bless the Lord O my soul, and all and your parents that our look should be upward.

"Farewell! Watch at the gate of the Lord. He is very near: and when nature is decaying, and all seemingly going against the usual modes of human hope and confidence, then is just His time, and it is at such times that He does often assert His supremacy by that of the just, "shining more and more unto raising the mind despite its decaying tenement, and making heaven shine the brighter the more earth fades.

" I would that this sickness might not be unto death. But the as Lord's will, whatever it be, must be best. In ' His will be done may you find your highest happiness, and your friends their chi " Affectionately yours. consolation. "Acadia College, January 28, 1847."

This letter so replete with Christian sympathy, so abundant religious consolation, administered largely to his spiritual comfoand drew from him the following reply :---

Nictaux, February the 10th, A. D. 1847 ts.

"My Dear Mr. Crawley : Through the goodness of the Lord am permitted to use my pen in answering your kind letter, while of I received yesterday. I cannot help expressing my gratitude f 17; attacks of cold during the winter, but had no belief that there was the interest which you take in my welfare, both bodily and spirit Enal. Though we have a friend in heaven ' who sticketh closer thing.

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distress. I arose and went in his room. "Is any thing wanted," I said, "my son ?" "I am in great trouble of mind," he replied. " God has hid his face from me. My confidence is gone, and my sins are like mountains crushing me down. behalf, and then sought to apply to him the invitations and promises of the Gospel. Seldom, if ever, have I witnessed such a violent conflict. It seemed as if the arch devourer was making his last and most deadly onset, determined by a desperate effort to make him his prey. The poor fellow writhed in unutterable agony. Said he "All the sufferings of body that I ever felt, are not to be compared with what I now feel in my soul." After remaining some time with him I thought I would leave him to his own reflections, feeling assured that the Lord would not forsake him. went to my room. not to sleep, but to watch the issue of the fearful conflict in which my poor son was engaged. After a suitable time I returned to his room. As soon as he heard meenter. " Oh father," he exclaimed, " the Saviour has appeared for me, and He is more precions than in Him. Blessed be His name." He continued. ' the application of that passage, ' Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world,' has removed all my fears." This to him and to me was a most glorious triumph. The battle was not of long duration, but it was one of mighty energy. In imagination I could almost see the fiery darts of satah threatening the destruction of my dear boy, both soul and body.

" I cannot live long in this state," he, in agony. exclaimed. The cloud was dark and dense, but my confidence in the arm of the Almighty was never stronger than in this fearful moment, and when the victory was achieved I could but say that is within me bless his holy name.'

From that time until his death I am not aware that he had a distressing doubt in reference to his interest in Christ. His path, indeed, seemed like the perfect day." He lingered without much bodily pain until the Thursday evening prior to Centre, Dining, and Extension Tables, Card do.; Friand Cottage Bedsteads, Round Cornered Do; Trup. and Cott Bedsteads; Cribbs, Cradles, Clothes Hord, and Cott Bedsteads; Cribbs, Cradles, Clothes Hoid, Knife Boxes, Toy Pails, Desks, Sives, Mattrasees, Feath Spring Beds, Looking Glasses, Curtain Fixtures, Cord r-Tassal, Greek Blinds, Chopping Trays, Rolling Pins, Bre Wheel-barrows, Willow Carriages, Buggies, Boys' Cor Foot Stools, Counter and Desk Stools, BEBROOM SETTS BEDROOM SETTS.

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tions that were habitually working in his mind.

He seemed at this very early stage of his life, to have a strong sense of moral obligation to his Maker. When inclined to do a wrong act, we had only to say to him, " My son, if you do so, him.

On one occasion, I remember he had been guilty of telling me an untrath. I took him to my study, and reasoned the case with him, shewing him how exceedingly wrong it was to tell a falsehood, and declaring that unless he very humbly begged my pardon, and promised never to do so again, that I should not forgive him. This he was very ready to do. I then proceeded to tell him that he had not only grieved and offended his parents, but he had greatly offended his Maker, and he must get down upon his knees with me, and I would pray to God to pardon him, and then he must pray for himself. He felt this to be a very severe ordeal, but he submitted. I presented the case in prayer to God, and having done so. I called upon him to confess his sin to the Almighty, and ask forgiveness. This he did in a manner highly appropriate to the occasion in a child of his age. The remedy applied was somewhat out of the ordinary course of parental discipline, but it was perfectly efficacious.

I here take occasion to remark that all I have seen of parental government from that day to this, goes to confirm me in the sentiment which I have long cherished, that moral sussion and religious influence are essential elements in the discipline of the youthful mind, and in most cases are far more effective than those coercive measures which are too often resorted to, or those harsh words boundlessuess came before him in a way that it had never done and threats, which under the influence of passion, are generally before, and there was connected with this view of the immensity addressed to the most servile passions of the child.

But to return. Those impressions upon the mind of our child induced the hope that the day was not far distant, when he would yield his heart to the claims of redeeming love. This hope was not realized until the period before referred to. Shortly after I entered upon my pastoral duties at Fredericton, it pleased God to pour out his spirit upon the church and congregation under my care. A number had experienced religion before any thing unusual happened upon the mind of Asahel. While actively engaged in seeking to impress the consciences of the people with the magnitude of eternal things, and while witnessing the blessing of God upon my feeble efforts. I could not but feel a very deep concern for the salvation of my own dear children. Repeatedly and fervently did I carry their case to a throne of grace, and pray God for Christ's sake to have mercy upon them. Never shall I forget the joy which thrilled my bosom when this dear boy said to me, in heart-felt agony for his sins, " Pa! I want to be a Christian, but I fear my sins are too great to be forgiven." The instruction of his Sabbath-school teacher tended in some good degree to strengthen these impressions. While he was thus exercised, one nearly allied to him expressed a wish to be baptized. He said, " Do wait a few days, perhaps the Lord will have mercy on me, and then I shall be prepared to go with you." It was some time before he ventured to indulge a hope that his sins were forgiven. He seemed deeply humbled under a sense of the depravity of his heart and life, and afraid to venture his soul upon the Redeemer. But at length he was led to such a perception of the way of salvation by the cross, as juspired him with hope that his sins, though great, were blotted out—and that he was personally interested in the salvation of the Gospel. Shortly after this change occurred, the parrative, increases the value of the instruc- he related his Christian experience to the church. It was considered highly satisfactory, and he was cordially received for baptism. Several of his associates in school, with others, were received at the same time. With mingled emotions of hope and fear, I administered to him the sacred rite. His boyhood, his little acquaintance with the world, and with the wiles of Satan, excited many fears that he might not honor the solemn profession which he was making befor the world. He remained at home the best part of two years after his baptism, during which time it is only just to set boundaries over which he could not pass. His days on earth say, that his religious course was very consistent. He was careful to maintain the duties arising from the new connexion which he had formed.

At the age of fifteen he left home for the purpose of commencthe pen most deeply interested in drawing the ing a Collegiate course. My fears were again revived. I knew e of all that was most lovely and engaging that a separation from home, a removal from parental watchfulness. in part at least, and a connexion with boys, many of whom made Another reflection that arises from the perusal no religious profession, were all unfavourable to him in a religious of the notice under remark, is the sensitiveness point of view. But his aptitude for the acquisition of knowledge, of the truly Christian mind in regard to sin. How associated with an ardent desire to pursue it, inclined us to give

wenty did he seek pardon for the past, and when hope and joy returned, how gladly did he attended, were got and converse time the circumstances and enjoy-bute all to the mercy of his beavenly Father, freely and undescredy bestowed upon him a fathough he had suffered a worldly and trilling eprirt to gain an ascendancy over him; had re-strained prayer before God, and lost much of the awour of heavenly things, yet he had not been left to fall into open sin, or publicly to bring re-left to fall into open

something unusual preying about his constitution. We applied to several physicians, but medicine produced no alteration for the better, and we became strongly to apprehend that he was the subject of a pulmonary affection, which would soon result you will offend God," and the remark was quite sufficient to deter in his removal from us. I sought to impress upon his mind the necessity of a speedy preparation for the event. He seemed perfectly conscious that his life was in jeopardy, but he had no confidence that he was prepared for the issue. He felt that he had backslidden from God, and had no strength to return. Most earnestly did I implore the mercy of God in his behalf; again and again did I promise in solemn prayer, if God would only manifest his forgiving love to him, and give him an evidence of his acceptance, that I would most cheerfully give him up. I put Baxter's Saints' Rest, and Dwight's Sermons, upon the heavenly state, and books of this description, into his hands, and exhorted him not to rest until he should feel that his peace was made with God. I fancied that I perceived a gradual improvement in the state of his mind, but as yet there was nothing very marked. By the month of January he was so far weakened by disease, as to be confined a part of every day to his bed. On going to his bed one day, as he informed us afterwards, he felt inclined to sleep, but could not. The thought crossed his mind that he had read somewhere that if one were desirous to sleep and could not, he should fix his mind upon some important subject. It was suggested to him that he should think of the love of God. No sooner did his mind turn to the contemplation of this attribute of the Deity, than he was perfectly overwhelmed with a sense of its infinitude. Its of God's love, a deep sense of the enormity of his sins, and the base ingratitude of his heart. His own language was, "I feel as if I want to weep my life away at the foot of the Cross." The remainder of the day was spent in deep humiliation and self-abasement. In the evening it was so overruled that brother Cunningham came to see him. It was a most seasonable and profitable visit. Asahel unbosomed his heart to him, spoke freely of the exercises he had had through the day, and seemed deeply imbued with the spirit of genuine contrition. The salutary conversation and fervent to deepen those impressions which were working so powerfully apon his mind. From this time his confidence began to increase. He felt that there was redemption for him in the blood of the Lamb. The invitations of the Gospel became exceedingly precious to him, and at times he could rejoice in the hope of eternal life. With the revival of his religious feelings, there was associated an earnest desire, should God spare his life, to devote himself to the Christian ministry. In speaking of this one day, he said to me, "Father, preaching the Gospel is the most glorious work that

a human being can be engaged in. I do not know that I desire to live for anything else, but to preach the gospel of Christ to poor sinners.' I had now a new struggle to endure. I had thought if God would only restore to him the joys of his salvation, that I would cheerfully resign him to the arms of death; but now that this was done, he became entwined with new and still stronger cords around

my heart. If he could only be restored, thought I, who knows but that he may carry the bread of life to famishing souls, and when my poor head is numbered with the clods of the valley, he may stand on Zion's walls to declare to listening thousands the unsearchable riches of Christ. From his childhood I had cherished a strong desire that he might be a useful minister of the Gospel. He now seemed to have all the elements necessary to constitute him a preacher of righteousness, except the enjoyment of health. Often did I feel that there was no land of moral darkness or of idolatry, however distant, to which I would not willingly commit paration to serve Him in a better world. him as an ambassador of the Cross of Christ, if his health could only be restored. But an inscrutable but all-wise Providence had were numbered. The vigor and bloom of youth had given place to a wasting constitution and to the hectic flush. Consumption had fastened its deadly fangs on his vital organs, and diffused its blighting influence through every part of the system ; and although

Early in February he received a deeply interesting letter from Dr. Crawley, one of his instructors at College; and as this was sure, as being dictated by one for whom he cherished the warmest affection and highest regard, I trust I shall be pardoned for insert-

ness to the grace bestowed upon him ! How fer- competent to enter College. His advancement in his studies was they most wish to do. I rejoiced in the prospect of visiting Nic-

a brother,' yet how delightful is it to know that here on this ear there are those whose joy it is to comfort, advise, and pray for N. In this respect I have great reason to be thankful. All that I cColwish for is supplied by my kind parents, and their prayers day ascend to heaven in my behalf, mingled, as I believe, with the rititions of distant friends, who although they may be separated from the separate separated from the separate sepa us. can yet be heard by the gracious ear of the Almighty. Yo wish, I doubt not, sir, is to know the precise state of my feeling. and to whom should I unbosom myself more readily than to or who, in the absence of natural ties, feels as a father toward me.

"When I look back upon my past life, I feel astonished at mer, amazing sinfulness. Even after I was stricken by the hand of t^{llic} Lord, I continued for a long time hardened and impenitent. conscience seemed asleep, utterly regardless of the solemn warning held out to me, in the deprivation of my health. Surely 'it was of the Lord's mercy I was not consumed.' By degrees, however, serious thoughts forced themselves upon my mind, and I was gradually ble. I committed him to that gracious Being who led to feel the hopelessness of my condition without a Saviour. had given him to us, feeling that he had a right to But the past came before me as an insuperable barrier to my salvation. I was afraid that I had by my awful backslidings, grieved away the Holy Spirit, and I should be given over to a hardened us separately in the following affecting strain a "I heart and reprobate mind. Did I attempt a train of thought on hope, my dear parents, you will be comforted ; eternal things, I would suddenly find my imagination wandering the promises of God are all-sufficient for you. on the most foolish and triffing subjects, so that I almost despaired You, my dear sister, must be resigned to the will of success in seeking the Saviour. But by reading the Bible, and of God, and put your trust in Him; and you. other religious books, I derived much consolation. Such promises my dear little brothers, must prepare to meet me as this given by our Lord's own mouth, ' him that cometh unto in Heaven. The separation," he added, " will me, I will in no wise cast out,' would for a time dissipate all doubts be short. I trust we shall all be prepared to meet as to the willingness of God to receive me. I felt it, as you say, in that blessed world. Oh ! I feel that I shall be to be just applicable to my case, There was no exception. The the first to bid you all welcome on the other side offer was made to all. 'the vilest of the vile and the chief of sin- of Jordan." He revived again and continued ners." Still my confidence was weak until it pleased God sudden- comfortable nntil next morning, which was ly to discover to me the amazing immensity of his love, and the the Sabbath. He had another ill turn, and we onsequent malignity of my nature, in despising such pure, un- thought he would soon leave us. He was perbounded benevolence. Then I felt as I never had at any previous time. The tears of contrition, if never before, I trust then did flow, and my convictions of the entire readiness of God to save me, any," he replied. "I regard it simply as a restwere of the most sanguine nature. But seldom is it that I possess | ing place for my poor diseased body, where it will pravers of this faithful servant of God tended in no small degree so much confidence in my acceptance as would make me willing the soon caten up by worms. But it cannot confidence in my acceptance as would make me willing the soon caten up by worms. to die without some special warning. This I know must be attri- the immortal spirit, the only truly noble part of buted to my perverse nature and to the malevolence of Satan. One thing which affords me much satisfaction is this, I think I have lestial City, and will expand for ever in the fulness much at heart the eternal well being of others, especially those I have associated with at College. How rejoiced would I be to hear for me to leave him to attend meeting. The enof their conversion and devotedness to God. As you insinuate perhaps they will listen to the words of one who once their intimate companion and fellow sinner, now has every reason to expect that the time of his departure from this world is drawing near. through the course of the day. He was too weak and whose views of eternity must needs be clearer than their own. to say much to any of them-but to some he gave Oh! how I regret my course of hife when with them. We may meet again, but if not, oh let us prepare to meet in heaven. Warn- heaven." Early on Monday morning he had ancings are held out on every hand. My own case and that of dear John Pryor's should make them seek a preparation for the worst. Oh may they listen to the voice of conscience, which I am persuaded they sometimes hear, and obey its dictates. If so, when the dread realities of eternity burst upon their view they will not be dismayed, but hail the appearance of the Judge as the time of their triumph.

dear son. The call to me was loud, 'Be ye aloo ready.' I trust or twice he expressed a desire "to depart and John is now in a happier state state than exists on this earth. If be with Christ," but then chiding himself, he so, what cause for sorow? Sometimes I feel as if I would rather said, "I ought to be willing to suffer this disdepart and be with Christ.' I should then escape the snares of tress, it is small compared with what others have Satan, which are set for the unwary. But God's will is the best, and if I live may I serve Him, and if I die may it be with a pre-

" I remain, my dear sir,

" Yours with sincere affection and respect. "Dr. Crawley, Acadia College."

Through the month of March there was no visible change in his health for the worse, and we occasionally flattered ourselves that the return of warm weather might prove favourable. But the dreariness of winter passed ; spring came, the earth revived, the flowers and he continued without much suffering during the winter, the work of destruction was slowly but steadily advancing. on her loveliest hue, but our poor boy revived not. His strength declined, his flesh wasted, and we were compelled to feel that he Dr. Crawley, one of his instructors at College; and as this was must soon go to his final dwelling place. I remember on one oc-exceedingly refreshing to the mind of the departed, and as he casion as he was looking out of the window upon the beauties of perused its salutary instructions again and again with peculiar plea- nature, he remarked, " This is a lovely world ; but what are all its

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M^{OLASSES} AND SUGAR.-Ex brigt Prince of Wale -20 Puns. Bright Cientaegos Molasses; 11 hhd choice Porto Rico Sugar. For sale by be shrouded in the darkness of the tomb. It occasioned a struggle that none but a parent's heart can feel. But the throne of grace was accessitake him when he pleased. No sooner had we risen from prayer than he commenced addressing fectly calm and collected. I said to him, "Do you see no gloom in the grave my son." " Not man. That will be wafted by angels into the Ceof the Deity." He revived again, but was too ill tire community seemed deeply interested, and many flocked to take their last look. It was supposed that nearly a hundred persons called in the timely admonition, " Prepare to meet me in ther attack similar to those preceding, except that he was more reduced ; but as his bodily strength diminished, his faith in the Redemer increased. I inquired. " My son have you no terror in death ?" " No." was the answer, and with great emphasis, he added. " The tyrant is crushed." He contin-"I most deeply sympathise with Mr. Pryor in the loss of his | ued to suffer very much through the day. Once suffered, or with what I deserve." My Saviour bears more than one half of it for me. " I wish I could sing," he added. " What would you sing ?" I asked.

"How long, dear Saviour, Oh! how long Shall that bright hour delay ?".

was the touching reply. He rested more easily through the night, but continued rapidly to sink. His cough had ceased for several hours. About 12 o'clock on Tuesday it came on again, but there was no strength to raise. He remarked "My lungs have given out," and shortly after added. This is death, Welcome, welcome, welcome, Come, Lord Jesus-come quickly."

"Jesus can make a dying bed Feel soft as downy pillows are."

tender was the conscience of this young disciple, him the best advantages in our power, in the hope that at some fa-when recalled from his backslidings. How earaure, as being dictated by one for whom he cherished the warmest affection and highest regard, I trust I shall be pardoned for insert-ing an extract from it, together wish the reply: "My DEAR ASAMEL—It seems hard for some minds to do what hey most wish to do. I rejoiced in the prospect of visiting Nic-aux lately, hereanse I should see yon and converse with yon. In nestly did he bemoan his departures from God, Accordingly we sent him to Acadia College. He passed his examing an extract from it, together with the reply : ascribing them to their true cause-his unfaithful- | ination before the Board of Professors, and was considered by them