

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR, Published every THURSDAY, by BARNES & CO., 159, Prince William Street, London, E.C. 4.

Christian Visitor

THE OFFICE OF THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR, 58 PRINCE WILLIAM STREET, SAINT JOHN, N. B. REV. I. E. BILL, Editor and Proprietor.

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR affords an excellent medium for advertising.

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

SAINTE JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1867.

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Baptist Seminary, FREDERICTON. THE Third Term of the Academic Year of 1867-68 will commence on September 24, 1867.

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The Light of God. Behold, He spreads His light upon it. Darkness, and a settled, deep Silence, that is felt by all. And the mighty despot, Sleep, Holds the sons of men in thrall.

Every night the darkness sleeps, Every morn the light awakes. Every midnight Nature weeps, Every morn her pleasure takes.

Not a miracle is wrought, When the flash of light is spread. Daily to our look and thought, Comes the wonder overheard.

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because it is the record of events that have taken place; and there is all the more power if the facts transmitted possess a solitary grandeur. A myth, or fable, may be grand in thought, or grand in description; but it possesses no real, lasting power to impress the mind and move the heart; for it is not true; it is not a sober fact; Christ is not a myth. A sinful man could not create such a myth, or draw the picture of such a perfect life.

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to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, a house to the homeless, and rest to the laboring and weary laden. It is adapted to our mental and moral constitution; it violates no law of our being; it fulfills all that it promises to accomplish; it restores the believer to the favor of God; it elevates and glorifies him; the Gospel brings to man the unsearchable riches of Christ and the fulness of blessing.

The Gospel is the power of God, because Christ is exalted to the right hand of the Majesty on high. Christ is not now, as He was on earth, the despised and rejected Nazarene, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. All power in heaven and earth is given unto Him, and He is in all things before the church, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. The forces of the universe are commanded by Christ. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is a universal and everlasting King. His mediatorial reign shall be consummated when He shall have given up the Kingdom to God even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power; but Christ's sovereignty as a Divine Being, as the incarnate Son of God and as the Head of the Redeemed, can never end.

The Kingdom of our God and of His Christ. The Gospel cannot be a failure; for it is the sceptre of Immanuel's sovereignty. Through the exaltation of Christ, the triumph of the Gospel were inaugurated on the day of Pentecost; and the red of Christ's strength went forth from Zion, and it goes forth still, in the preaching of the Word. Though the Gospel finds in the heart of every natural man an enemy, yet it exists and spreads, and it is constantly furnishing trophies of its power, so that in the desert of our sin-stricken world, a highway is being prepared for our God. The valleys shall be exalted and the mountains and hills be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight and the rough places plain; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed; and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

In the Gospel, Emmanuel goes forth to the conquest of His foes. As David sings in the 48th Psalm, "Gird thy sword, upon thy thigh, O mighty; with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy midst ride prosperously, because of truth, and meekness, and righteousness, and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the King's enemies, whereby the people fall under thee." Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of thy Kingdom is a right sceptre.

The Planet Jupiter. This splendid planet, which is much the largest of the solar system, may be seen rising every evening in the South-East. It is said to be now 140,000,000 miles distant from the earth, which is 200,000,000 miles nearer than it is sometimes. Its diameter is 82,000 miles. Distance from the sun - 480 millions of miles, revolving around it in little less than twelve of our years. It turns on its axis in less than ten hours. Has nearly 1400 times the bulk of the earth; but its density being only 1/4 to water, it contains about 300 as much matter. The light of Jupiter is the twenty-fifth part of what is enjoyed at the earth's surface. The great bulk of the planet and short space of time in which it revolves on its axis, cause the velocity of its equatorial parts to be prodigiously great - not less than 26,000 miles an hour.

On account of its superiority in size among the planets, this one is called Jupiter, the name of the most distinguished of the heathen deities. It has no inclination of axis, and therefore no change of seasons. Polar regions, perpetual winter; about the equator, perpetual summer. Were the axis inclined like that of our earth, one portion of its surface would, alternately, be deprived of the sun's light, and have constant day for nearly the space of six of our years; surrounded with belts, supposed to be clouds floating in the atmosphere, parallel with its equator, interspersed with dark spots, which are supposed to be clouds more dense than others. It is by the observation of these latter through a telescope, the time of Jupiter's rotation on its axis has been ascertained. To compensate for its want of light, occasioned by its remoteness from the sun, Jupiter is constantly attended by four moons, or satellites, which revolve around it. These moons are too distant from us to be seen by the naked eye; but with a telescope, they present a most majestic appearance. They were discovered in the year 1610. They often fall into the shadow of their primary, in consequence of which they are eclipsed, as seen from the earth. The eclipses of her moons have been observed with great care by astronomers, because they have been the means of determining the exact longitude of places, and the velocity with which light moves through space. An eclipse of one of these, appears, by calculation, to take place sixteen minutes sooner, when the earth is in that part of its orbit nearest to Jupiter (as now), than it does when the earth is in that the most distant. Hence, it is found, that light is sixteen minutes in crossing the earth's orbit; and as the sun is in the centre of this orbit, or nearly so, it must take about eight minutes for the light to come from the sun to us. Light, therefore, passes, at the velocity of ninety-five millions (one distance from the sun), in about eighty minutes, which is nearly two hundred thousand miles in a second.

No wonder the Psalmist exclaimed, on contemplating the starry heavens, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth His handy work." Psalm xix. 1; and Sir Isaac Newton, too, remarked, after devoting a life to astronomical studies, "I feel like a little boy, playing on the beach with a few pebbles, while the whole ocean lies untouched and undiscovered before me." Our earth is but an insensible ball, compared with even some of the planetary bodies belonging to our own system. One would contain 900 globes as large as this earth, another 1400; and were 500, as large as that on which we dwell, arranged on a vast plane, the outermost ring of the planet Saturn, which is 643,000 miles in circumference, would enclose them all. Such are the vast dimensions of some of these revolving bodies, which appear only like lucid specks on the concave of our sky.

The earth, however, and all the huge planets, satellites and comets, comprised within the range of the solar system, bear a very small proportion to that splendid luminary which enlightens our day. The sun is five hundred times larger than the moon; and would contain within its

conference thirteen hundred thousand globes as large as our world, and more than sixty millions of globes of the size of the moon! The celebrated Dr. Dick remarks, most truly, "to contemplate all the variety of scenery on the surface of this hemispherical world, would require more than thirty-five thousand years, although a landscape of 5000 square miles in extent were to pass before our eyes every hour. A universe in truth; and ten thousands of years would be requisite before human beings, with their present facilities, could thoroughly investigate and explore its vast dimensions and hidden wonders."

But great as this sun, and its surrounding planets, they dwindle into a point, when we wing our flight towards the starry firmament. Before we could arrive at the nearest object in this firmament, we should have to pass a space of at least twenty billions of miles in extent; a space, which a cannon ball, flying with its utmost velocity, could not pass over in less than four millions of years!

Wherever we look, we see traces of the Divine hand; to whatsoever quarter of creation we turn ourselves, the awakened ear will catch the echoes of the Divine voice. Our object in pathing a few facts, and combining them in a pleasing and attractive form, in reference to this sublime and imposing subject of astronomy, has not been so much to render christianity sciences, as to render science christianity. No subject, certainly, can be better calculated to gain the attention of the young, and raise in the mind a highly improved state of moral sentiment, and feeling. The poet truly said, "An undevout astronomer is mad."

The Great Pyramid. A curious theory concerning the Great Egyptian Pyramid has been promulgated by Professor Eaton, of New York, although not original with him. Mr. Thomas Taylor, of London, first, we believe, conceived the startling theory, that the Pyramid was inspired by divine Providence to afford the Egyptians a standard for their weights and measures. Professor Eaton has set forth the theory as follows: The pyramid was perfectly symmetrical, with five sides and five angles. It was originally 762 feet on each side, and is now the highest and largest building erected by man. Sir Isaac Newton had devoted his time and labour in analyzing the ancient ruins, and came to the conclusion that it was 25 inches and a little more. The circle, which forms the correlative to the pyramid consists of 3651 of these units, thus, corresponding to the year. The pyramid was made plane to the meridian, without hieroglyphics or secret inscriptions, as all burial places of antiquity did have which are found everywhere else. The box which was found in the centre of the body has been commonly supposed to be a sarcophagus; but there is no appearance to bear this theory out. No provision of priests could enter, and it is indeed difficult for any one. The granite of which a portion of the pyramid is made is not found near at hand, and indeed, not closer than Mount Sinai. The structure, seems to be built on the most correct principles of geometry. It coincides in pointing with the North Star, or that star which, in the procession of the equinoxes, four thousand years ago was the Northern Star. The Professor furthermore showed that the temperature of the central room was uniform throughout; thus affording a place for keeping weights and measures; that the box affords an exact hydrometric measure; that water was found in the pyramid itself; thus giving pure material for scientific examination; that the opening in the pyramid looked out on the lower culmination of the North Star at the time of its erection, and not on the upper, because the Pleiades would interfere with its view; and that it is on the exact spot for the purpose of taking astronomical observations. This is one of those things "Important in truth."

The Falls of Niagara. Travellers who visit the Falls of Niagara are directed to a spot on the margin of the precipice over the boiling current below, where a gay young lady, a few years since, lost her life. She was delighted with the wonder of the unparalleled scene, and ambitious to pluck a flower from a cliff where no human hand had before ventured, as a memorial of the catarrh and her own daring. She leaned over the verge and caught a glimpse of the surging waters for down the battlement of rocks, while fear for a moment darkened her excited mind. But there hung the lovely blossoms upon which her heart was fixed; and she leaned in a delirium of intense desire and anticipation, over the brink. Her arm was outstretched to grasp the beautiful form which charmed her fancy, the turf yielded to the pressure of her feet, and with a surer, she descended like a falling star to the rocky shore, and was borne away gasping in death.

How impressively does the tragical event illustrate the way in which a majority of impenitent sinners perish forever. It is not a deliberate purpose to neglect salvation, but in pursuit of imaginary good, fascinated with pleasing objects just in the future, they lightly, ambitiously, and recklessly venture too far. They sometimes fear the result of desired wealth or pleasure; they seem to hear the thunder of eternity's deep and recoil a moment from the altitudes of sin; but the solemn pause is brief, the onward step is taken, the fancied treasure is in the grasp, when a despairing cry comes up from Jordan's wave, and the soul sinks into the arms of the second death.

Oh, every hour life's sands are sliding from beneath incantations feet, and with sin's fatal flower in the unconscious hand, the trifer goes to his doom. The region of each departed is an echo of the Saviour's question, "What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" - Northern Christian Advocate.

The Spider's Web. How wonderful is the tenacity of these fairy-like lines, yet strong enough to enable the arid voyager to run through the air, and catch the prey which ventures within his domain. It is an art that is the web of the gossamer spider, the smallest of these, there are twenty tubes through which is drawn the viscid globules, the granular matter it employs in spinning, each of the tubes, next of about one-tenth of an inch. It takes 140 of these globules to form a single spiral line. It has twenty-four circumvolutions to go through, which gives the number of 3360. We have then got the average total number of lines between two radii of the circle, multiplied by the length of the web, and we have the number of lines.

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