

acter, but... increase profanity and sloth... sooner we elapse ourselves from these things...

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 25, 1869.

Christian Baptism.

BY REV. A. N. ARNOLD, PROFESSOR IN MADISON UNIVERSITY, N. Y.

The presumption against infant baptism from the character of the gospel dispensation has already been alluded to. The religion of the gospel addresses itself to individuals, intelligent and responsible.

Besides this presumption against infant baptism from the very constitution of the Christian church, as represented in the scriptures, the nature of the initiatory rite itself seems to us to forbid its application to those who are incapable of giving evidence of repentance for sin and faith in Christ.

But if it be not Divine training which our Colleges want, the remedy must be sought, I suppose, in the increase of piety among the Professors and students, rather than in a modified curriculum.

After an experience of greater or less extent, in matters relating to the Church of Christ, reaching over fifty years and upwards, I look round in vain for an example, within my knowledge, of a minister, of whom, as it appears to me, it could justly be said, his education has unfitted him for his work.

There is an important class of passages, two of which have already been referred to, which connect baptism very intimately with regeneration, forgiveness, sanctification, and salvation.

There is a steady increase to the church through the year. O, for the return of such a time of the reviving influence of the Spirit, without which the church must languish and die.

Ministerial Training—Woodstock.

DEAR EDITOR—Circumstances have made a longer pause in my communications than I wished; I hope I may be excused. I must just say, also, that I continue to put Woodstock at the head of these articles; not as implying, in the least, any question as to the efficiency of that institution, but merely to preserve the connection of a theme that started from that nucleus.

There are two ruling suggestions which I wish to press on the subject of ministerial training. One is, that the highest degree of education in any of our colleges or theological schools, is no where too high for the wants of the age; the other, that no elevation of mental culture can unfit a man for gospel labor, if he have the true gospel character.

I cannot, in these brief sketches, pursue these points in the most orderly manner; but must present them, from time to time, in such a way as seems adapted to give interest to the discussion.

In the present article, I desire to dwell on the question—Is the way supposed to exist in our older institutions, considered as means of supplying the pulpit, really owing to the style of education, or to something else? Does the highest mental training unfit a man for the work of religious instruction; or, if he be found unfitted for it, must not the cause of that unfitness be sought in some other direction than in the perfection of his training?

I suppose it must be admitted, that men of high training, may sometimes be found to take a greater pleasure in high philosophical views of religion, as of everything else, than in those more practical presentations of truth that are needed for the masses.

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For the Christian Visitor.

From our Richmond Correspondent. DEAR VISITOR—We have had a most charming winter. This season but little snow has fallen; and ice has been rarely seen. The fruit trees are in blossom, and summer-like days are close at hand.

The old antagonisms between the brethren of the North and of the South are apparently gradually melting away. Although 600,000 graves lie between the North and the South, yet the love of Christ can bring them yet again hand to hand and heart to heart.

Public attention has recently been particularly directed to them, and to their work, and their doctrines, by a noteworthy event. I refer to the citation of Rev. J. K. Smith, pastor of Knox's church, Galt, before the Presbytery of the Canada Presbyterian Church, to answer to the allegation of heresy.

Our beloved brother was with us two Sabbaths, preaching and lecturing on Missions, to large and deeply interested audiences. We cannot but believe that our interest in the cause of Missions will be greatly and permanently increased by his visit among us.

To the Alumni of Madison University. Every member of Madison University within the year 1839 and 1840, whether or not Graduates from the College or Seminary, is earnestly requested to send his P. O. address as soon as possible to the undersigned.

Those belonging to the classes of 1839-40-41, will please address Rev. Wm. S. Mikels, D. D., 244 West 17th, New York.

Those belonging to the classes of 1842-43-44 will please address Rev. George J. Johnson, Burlington, Iowa; and those belonging to the classes of 1845-46-47-48, will please address Rev. J. Stamford Holme, D. D., 52nd street, Southwest Corner of 3rd Avenue, New York.

Donation Visit to Rev. James Irving. On Friday, the 12th inst., a number of the brethren and friends of Roshe, Alma, met at the residence of Mr. Oliver Anderson, to present to the Rev. James Irving, their present pastor, some tokens of their good will and esteem.

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Now I find my whole space taken up, and several things in more immediate connection with our own body, which I had intended to write, must remain unwritten for the present. It is, and has been for some time, a season of donations and surprise parties throughout all this region.

DEAR EDITOR—The good friends of Lower Cambridge are enjoying a blessed revival of religion, under the labors of Brother Springer and Shaw, the latter from up river. At last accounts, twenty-four had been baptized. May the work spread. J. R. STARR.

DEAR EDITOR—The members of the church and congregation and others, met last evening at the pastor's residence and partook of a most delicious repast, after which the meeting was called to order by J. H. Moran, Esq. Rev. A. Washburn was called to the chair, and the following address was presented by Captain G. W. Marsters:

DEAR BROTHERS AND FRIENDS—This small magazine is a monthly issue of the Home Mission Society, New York. Besides choice selections of music, it is rich in timely suggestions and in interesting incidents regarding the mission.

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From our Ontario Correspondent. The revival in Galt—Pastor of Knox's church before the Presbytery on a charge of Heresy.—The extension and influence of the work.—Donations, &c.

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