

# The Christian Visitor.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS"—2d Timothy, i. 13.

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**A Precious Hymn and its Author.**  
As the closing hour of the great meetings of the American Board in Hartford, lately arrived, the President, Dr. Hopkins, said, "Let us, as is customary, sing the hymn—  
"Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above."  
The immense assembly sang it with a profound, tearful, joyous interest. How wonderfully appropriate to the occasion, and to hundreds of other occasions, is this precious hymn! What increasing numbers of God's people are singing it every day of the year, and will to the end of time! Its concluding strains may well be succeeded by the New Song.

The author of this hymn—John Fawcett, of England—was converted at the age of sixteen, under Whitefield's preaching. Three years later, in 1758, he united with the Baptist church in Bradford. In 1765 he was ordained pastor of the Baptist church at Wainsgate. In a few years he published one or two small volumes of Poetic Essays and Hymns. He wrote a volume on Anger, that King George III. was so greatly pleased with, that he offered to confer any favor upon the author he might desire. Fawcett modestly declined the royal proposal. Afterward, however, when the son of a friend was sentenced to death for forgery, he interceded for him, and the king granted a pardon. The young man subsequently became a devoted Christian.

True hymns are born of some peculiar experience or inspiration. So was it with the ode referred to above. Dr. Fawcett was pastor of a small church; his family increased more than his income; and he felt it his duty to accept the urgent call to London he had received, as the successor of Dr. Gill, the famous commentator. His farewell sermon to his church in Yorkshire was preached, and several wagons were loaded with his furniture and library for departure. But the members of his little flock, men, women and children, gathered around him and his family, in tears and almost broken-hearted agony, praying him not to leave them. The last load was being packed, when Dr. Fawcett and his wife sat down on one of the boxes and wept. The devoted wife, amidst streaming tears, looked up into his face and said, "Oh, John, John, I cannot bear this!" "Nor I either," said the good man, weeping. "Nor will we go. Unload the wagons and put everything in the place where it was before." The people cried with joy. The church in London was notified that he could not come, and the beloved pastor resumed his labors on a salary of about \$150 a year.

Then it was that he wrote the hymn that has become immortal:  
"Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love."  
He labored faithfully with this people till his death, in 1817, in his seventy-seventh year. Does he know in heaven how many are singing his glorious hymn on earth?  
—*Christian Secretary.*

(From the *Acadica Athenaeum*.)  
**Reminiscences of European Study and Travel—No. 4.**  
BY PROF. D. M. WELTON.

London is so large and contains so many objects of interest, that a particular description of them would necessitate the continuation of these articles to the end of the present century.

Of course such description should contain allusion to the

**TOWER OF LONDON.**  
of which a volume might be written, and which consists in fact, not so much of a single tower, as I had supposed, as of a collection of towers and other structures, covering, with their encircling moat and battlemented wall, an area of over twelve acres. In addition to the great White Tower, which rises high above everything else in the middle of the enclosed space, and from which the entire fortress has derived its name, there are also the Bloody Tower, the Wakefield Tower, the Salt Tower, the Beauchamp Tower, and the Bell Tower, all which have witnessed scenes of imprisonment and execution. It was within the precincts of the White Tower that Lady Jane Grey and her husband were beheaded, also Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, wives of Henry the Eighth.

Edward the Fifth and his brother were smothered to death in the Bloody Tower, and it was in a room over the same that Raleigh was confined and wrote his "History of the World."

Some of the instruments of death have been preserved and are shown to visitors. As I took in my hands the old beheading axe, and looked down upon the block from which so many noble and ignoble heads had rolled, I think I gained a new conception of England's struggles in the past, and prized more highly than ever the dearly bought liberty which she enjoys at present.

In this fortress are also the Horse Armoury, which is filled with specimens of ancient armor; and the Jewel House, which contains, among other things, Victoria's state crown, the staff of beaten gold carried before the Sovereign at a coronation, and the Koh-i-noor diamonds.

But there is in London another Tower which I was more desirous of seeing than the one just referred to; I mean the Lollard Tower, so called from the Lollards, many of whom were imprisoned and put to death therein. This Tower is connected with the Lambeth Palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which stands on the south bank of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament, and covers with the adjoining gardens eighteen acres.

The present occupant of the Palace, Archbishop Tait, was absent on the day on which Prof. Wright, now of Dartmouth, New Hampshire, and myself called to see the Tower. But the courteous and obliging lady in charge, learning that we were from this side of the Atlantic, and that it would not be convenient for us to come again, kindly conducted us from building to building, and from room to room, showing us the Guard Chamber, the Picture Gallery, the Library, the Chapel, and lastly the Lollard's Tower, and Lollard's Prison. The latter is a chamber 15 feet by 11 feet, and about 8 feet high. Beneath it, at its bottom, is a hole connecting by an underground passage with the Thames, into which the condemned prisoners were dropped, and where they were drowned by the in-coming water at flood tide. That the cell has been used as a prison is plain enough from the eight iron rings fixed in the wall, and from the inscriptions and figures cut by the captives on the oaken wainscoting. Among these inscriptions are "Nosce teipsum," and "I. H. S., cyppe me out of all il comple, amen." The unrighteous measures of Courtenay and others for the suppression of Lollardism had the effect of putting back the cause of religious freedom in England a century, and of almost extinguishing the intellectual life of the nation.

Again, the churches of London should fill a large place in anything like a complete description of its great attractions. This is particularly true of

**WESTMINSTER ABBEY,**  
which has been made the mausoleum chiefly of those who have gained renown in the civil walks of life. The latter noble building, one of the few architectural boasts of London, stands on the site of a church commenced by Sebert, King of Essex, about the year 610, on what was then an island in the Thames. In this church the sovereigns of England, from Harold down to Queen Victoria, have been crowned.

But the most interesting thing in the Abbey to me, was not its exquisite charms of proportion and artistic beauty, nor its famed Poet's corner, nor the great rose window which contains the word "Jehovah" in the centre, and is surrounded with thirty-two subjects taken from the life of Christ, but the Chapel of Henry the Seventh. This Chapel is a most perfect and wonderful specimen, not of pure Gothic architecture, but of a more particular style—the last of the Gothic series. "In the minutest details, from the pendant fan on its roof to the very hinges of its gates, ornament riots in the utmost luxuriance. The very walls are wrought with universal ornament, enervated with tracery and scooped into niches, crowded with statues of saints and martyrs. Stone seems, by the cunning labor of the chisel, to be robbed of its weight and density, suspended aloft as if by magic, and the fretted roof achieved with the wonderful minuteness and airy security of a cobweb." And the contents of this chapel are equally wonderful with the Chapel itself. Chief among these is the tomb of Henry the Seventh, called by Lord Bacon, "one of the stateliest and daintiest in Europe." It was in this Chapel that the Westminster Assembly of Divines, appointed to draw up a Confession of Faith, and a Directory of Public Worship, held its meetings.

The most conspicuous figure in this Assembly was the great Lightfoot, the best Hebrew and Talmudic scholar that England ever produced. It was perhaps the attention I had given in my studies to his character and writings that turned my thoughts to him to the exclusion of almost all else, as I stood within the Chapel whose walls had echoed to the sound of his vigorous and vehement debates.

But the towers and churches of London taken together, constitute only a part, and a very small part, of its objects of interest. There are its Royal Palaces and Houses of Parliament, its Government Offices and Commercial Buildings, its Bridges and Docks, its Inns of Court and Prisons, its Markets and Charitable Institutions, its Museums and Public Picture Galleries, its Private Mansions and Picture Galleries, its Societies for the promotion of Science, Literature, and the Arts, its Clubs and places of Public Amusement, its Streets and Parks, its Columns and Statues. Many attractions are found also in the environs of the city, as Crystal Palace, Greenwich Hospital and Park, Woolwich Dockyard and Arsenal, the Alexandra Palace and Park, the Kew Gardens, Hampton Court and Richmond, Windsor Castle, the Epping Forest, and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Then there are various places where the English assemble in numbers and there see certain pageants, &c., which rank among the most interesting sights, as the opening or closing of the session of Parliament by the Sovereign in Person, a Debate in the House of Lords or Commons, a trial in a Court of Law, the Lord Mayor's show on the 9th of November, an Oratorio at Exeter Hall or the Crystal Palace, the Floral Fetes at the Horticultural Gardens, or a Boat Race on the Thames.

In short, London is a world in itself, and seeing it in its totality is a truly ponderous undertaking. There are many persons living in East London who never saw West London, and vice versa. Many of the oldest inhabitants of London were never out of it, and could not testify from personal observation that it does not cover all England.

During my ten weeks' stay in the city, I saw as many and much of the above-named objects as possible. In the present article, however, it has been my purpose rather simply to name than fully to describe them, that I may the sooner pass on to the consideration of other topics.

In conclusion,—one cannot be long in London and keep his eyes open, without being impressed, first of all, with the idea of its amazing wealth. I have said that a hun-

dred Halifaxes would hardly equal it in population; but if the wealth of a hundred Halifaxes were multiplied by a thousand, the result would still fall below that of London. Land has sold in London at the rate of nine hundred thousand pounds sterling per acre, and there are many acres in the city which even this enormous sum would not purchase. The wealth of England is largely that of London, which may be called the Banking House of the world. True, as might be expected, there is great poverty in London also; but it is a poverty which its benevolent rich are most forward in relieving. There is no place on earth which sends forth its charities on so munificent a scale; and whether the needy be in London or China, and be the friends or foes of England, they may yet partake.

The visitor to London cannot fail, again, to be impressed with its vast material resources, in a word, its power. It would be no trifling war which London itself could wage. An American who visited the Woolwich Dockyard and Arsenal a few months since, made the remark, that if the Russians could once see the place, they would never think of going to war with England.

London, finally, exceeds any other city on the face of the earth in the variety and extent of its art treasures. They have been garnered from every quarter of the globe. In the British Museum, for example, are the world-renowned Elgin Marbles, so-called in consequence of their having been obtained by Lord Elgin when ambassador at Constantinople (1801-1803). These sculptures were executed under the superintendence of Phidias, and are universally acknowledged to be the most valuable examples of Greek art which modern times possess.

In this same Museum is also a collection of sculptures obtained chiefly by Mr. Layard, 1847-50, at ancient Nineveh. It was from the study of the inscriptions on these slabs that young Prof. Delitzsch of Leipzig, still only 26 years of age—has made himself one of the best Assyrian scholars in Europe, having lately published an Assyrian grammar. At the present time he is giving a course of Lectures in the Leipzig University, with a view of showing the confirmatory character of these Assyrian inscriptions to Mosaic record in Genesis.

In the South Kensington Museum, as one of the last prizes with which its wonderful art collections have been enriched, are the valuable relics which Dr. Schliemann has recently disinterred from the site of Old Troy.

Among the last art treasures of which the Londoners have possessed themselves, is Cleopatra's needle, which now stands on the north bank of the Thames.

In a word, London, taken altogether, must be regarded as filling the place of headquarters on our planet.

### Religious Selections.

Rev. Mr. Chiniquy, of Canada, is visiting Australia, where he has been received with much enthusiasm.

John Newton once said to a lady with ideas of a pure church, "Well, madam, if there were a perfect church on earth, it would cease to be so the moment you and I entered it."

Henry Varley's Tabernacle at Melbourne will, if completed in accordance with the plan, have a seating capacity of 5,000. Its central hall will be an amphitheatre in style, with a large coffee-house in front. The buildings around it will provide comforts for a workingman's club. It is proposed to expend £20,000.

His majesty, the king of Siam, has at length determined to have a system of education for his people. Seeing the success of the mission schools at Petchaburi and elsewhere in the country, he has resolved to imitate the example. This is regarded by all who are interested in the elevation of the people of Siam as the most important move that has been proposed during the present reign.

"There never was a mother yet who taught her child to be an infidel." So saith Mr. Joshua Billings, and there is a world of meaning in it. There is a story told of a noted infidel dying. His wife was a Christian. His daughter said to him: "Father, whose faith shall I take; yours or mother's?" "Your mother's," said the dying father.

### Items of Interest.

It is said that the Pope is consulting as to the advisability of calling a new Ecumenical Council.

A new Roman Catholic weekly newspaper at Rome is to be printed simultaneously in five languages.

Dr. Henry Blodgett, missionary in China, estimates the number of deaths by the recent famine in the northern provinces at 10,000,000.

The sale of pews in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, last week, realized \$40,721, an increase over last year of \$4,212.

The Jesuits recently burned some Bibles in ancient Tyre, but instead of gaining influence by it they excited so much dislike that they were obliged to leave the place.

The Pope has sent ten Jesuits to Central Africa to evangelize the countries traversed by Stanley and Livingstone. The mission will cost \$40,000, and the missionaries will take with them 500 porters, servants, etc., who will be unarmed.

In France there are 50,000 parishes, which employ 125,000 priests. The young men now in preparation for the priesthood are nearly as numerous as the priests. Gambetta has proposed to subject priests to military service.

The Bible Committee of the Crystal Palace Stand at the French Exposition presented an elegant copy of the Bible in six languages to Pres. MacMahon, with their thanks for the permission to circulate it during the Exhibition.

The circulation of religious newspapers and periodicals in the United States amounts to about 4,764,000, coming next to the circulation of political newspapers, which is 8,781,000, and far in advance of those of other pursuits and interests.

A Jew directs the public affairs of Protestant England; the most important department of the government of Catholic France are administered by Protestants, and the Sultan's Minister of Foreign Affairs is a Christian.

The bishop of York, Episcopal, of England, said that disestablishment at an early day was not improbable, and added: "I am not one of these who have abject terror of such a state of things." There are circumstances under which it would become our duty, one and all, to wish for such an event."

Governor Robinson in his message seconds the suggestion of Lord Dufferin that New York State and the Province of Ontario should unite in making Niagara Falls and vicinity an international park, and doing away with the nuisances that now are so annoying to visitors.

In Mecklenburg-Schwerin capital punishment had been virtually abolished for twenty years, the Grand Duke having uniformly commuted all sentences, but owing to the increase of serious crimes this practice has been given up and one execution has already been performed.

Prof. Swing's congregation is about to construct a church in the business center of Chicago, corner of State and Randolph streets. It is planned for a music hall during the week, and the money to pay for it is nearly all pledged. Pullman, Leiter and other men of cash are the prime movers.

The heaviest railway engine in America is on its way to its destination on the Rocky Mountain grades of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. It weighs 18,000 lbs., and has eight driving wheels. It had to be taken apart and sent over some of the route in pieces, as the roads west of Chicago would not allow it to pass over their bridges.

The new annual report of President Eliot, of Harvard College, calls attention to the general and remarkable physical healthiness of the students during a long term of years, comments favorably on the new system of examination for entrance, and on the privilege of voluntary attendance at recitations now extended to the Juniors as well as the Seniors, and notes with pleasure and pride the increasing success of the Memorial Hall as a college commons. The only mournful note in the document relates to the Divinity school, which is now in a decidedly decrepit condition.