HOPE.

I stood at night upon a storm-beat strand, And saw the dark blue waters madly fly, As larid lightning netted all the sky, And deep toned thunder shook the solid land

High rolled the maddened waves in cruel glee, And leaped to kiss the fast descending rain Beyond the breakers, roared the angry main, And night's deep darkness covered all the sea.

Far out, involved in that cimmerian fold, A stately vessel with her precious freight, Comes swiftly rushing into death's dark gate Where jagged breakers pointed daggers hold.

Fear reigns supreme, and agony and woe, And wails of sorrow fills the heavy air; And saint and sinner kneel in tearful prayer Nor hope to 'scape the yawning depths below.

Lo, suddenly across the foaming waves The tow'ring beacon sends a silvery light, Inviting shelter from the darksome night, Where tranquil water harbored shipping laves.

To sorrow, hope and joy succeeding fast, All hands to toil address themselves once more, And cast the anchor near the friendly shore And toil, and fear, and danger all are past.

O! in these lower circles, are not we Adrift upon an ocean vast and wide, Where deadly breaker 'neath the surface hide, And not a star lights up the solemn sea?

There, in the awful silence of the night, I stood upon the verge of dark despair, And watched the whirling circles of the air, The while I prayed that God would send me light.

To guide my falt'ring feet to peaceful rest; And like a lion from his forests caged, A deadly storm, with angry fury raged Within the troubled chambers of my breast,

Sweet star of Hope! and, like the beacon.

But now a star shines high in heaven for me,

A gentle raidiance o'er the raging woes That roll like billows o'er life's angry sea.

High in the fields of Heaven's azure sky It shines with brighter beauty night by night O, star of Hope! thy silver beams shall light My future journey to God's bye-and-bye.

Visitor Anlpit.

"IT WAS WINTER."—JOHN 10: 22.

REV. J. E. CRACKNELL.

The world is a great temple. Everything in it has a meaning. If we are will- you will do during 1881. If spared? ing to learn, all that is passing around will illustration of truth. In the Bible we have purpose with which you set out. Those four great evangelists. In the Book of two things which are essential to worldly Nature we have spring, summer, autumn, success—to know exactly what you want

Spring come as a type of the resurrec-Insects that appeared dead awaken. Seeds that had no appearance of life spring up. Summer appears, and the husbandman diligently gathers the golden grain, teaching us to employ well the opportunities afforded us. In Antumn we see "the leaves around us falling," reminding us that "we all do fade as a leaf." Not only the budding spring, the bountiful summer, the beautiful autumn, but even when the frost stiffens the earth, and the fields are stripped of their fruits, we may find abundant reason to rejoice, and lessons for instruction.

The days of winter are the days of Nature's rest. In the preceding months she has labored for the good of man, and now reposes in order to acquire new force. But even this rest is a secret activity—a new creation is preparing in silence—that his work as can be imparted to no other. she may again be equally fruitful and assume her wonted splendor. Winter has for us many charms and many comforts, and may suggest to us some thoughts for the omissions and commissions of the past Sabbath meditation.

providential favors.

like wool, he scattereth the hoar frost like wandering, aimless Christian service, which ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morphers but a faint life in your own soul sels; who can stand before his cold? He and kindles none in others. Make this a but "Dearly beloved, avenge not your-sendeth out his word and melteth them; year of definite, determined, devoted work, selves, but rather give place unto wrath, He causeth his wind to blow and waters and you cannot fail of that highest of all for it is written, vengeance is mine, I will flow." It is His ice, His snow, His wind, success, success for God. His cold. Men have become learned now,

Jerusalem has become the spring of living waters to the world. The Gospel may well be compared to water which cleanses, refreshes, satisfies. To living water—for

4. "It was winter" when the One Great they do!" Sacrifice was offered once for all and authority do we state "it was winter?" Mark 14: 54, "Peter went into the palace liberal, whose soul shall be made fat. of the Hight Priest, and he sat with the well pleased."

of the singing of birds is come, and the smiled into their faces.' voice of the turtle is heard in our land; come away."

For the Visitor.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE, A QUESTION FOR 1881."

It is a very important consideration for every man, woman and child amongst us. I would not endeavor to enter into the uncertainties and speculations. 1881 may or may not be the great harvest tide of the Croakers, for my own part I do not expect that it will, for God generally shows the foolishness of earth's false prophets, as he unfolds the future. But there is an awful weight of responsibility resting upon each one of us, Cain said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" verily God knoweth, and mother earth will one day groan out so loud the accumulation of wrong, that the transgressors shall find it more than they can bear. "To be or not to be," depends not a little on what

A recent writer puts it well in a few furnish subjects for reflection, and lessons words. What will you do in 1881 depends for improvement. Nature is a pictorial much on the definiteness of the plan and to do, and the best way to do it—are just as essential to effective and successful work tion. The face of the earth is renewed. for God. We believe that by far the larger proportion of the failures to do efficient Christian work comes from the failure of Christians to lay out some fixed line of work in church, or Sunday-school, or home, or social circle; from the failure to carry forward a definite purpose to a definite end There is altogether too much haphazard and slipshod Christian service.

Now there is no good reason why the children of this world should be wiser in this day and generation, in regard to the essentials of successful enterprise, than are the children of light. There is no good reason why the Christian should not work on sound business principles of care and prudence and incessant activity, with the added inspiration of the Divine blessing and favor, to put such heart and zeal into

This is the time to begin aright and anew with the beginning year. It will avail little to resolve in a general way, as you recall year, that you will be more faithful in Chris-1. Winter comes in fulfilment of the tian duty in the year to come. If that is all to mean that the best way of punishing ar covenant made with Noah .- Noah's sacri- you do, the chances are all against your enemy is to do him a kindness, and thus he fice was pleasing to the Lord, "The Lord doing any differently, unless you do a little will be more pained by the burning of the smelled a sweet savour, and the Lord said less well than before. The thing to do is to coals of fire we heap on his head, than by in His heart, I will not again curse the reflect upon past failures with a view to find any direct injury we can inflict upon him. ground any more for man's sake. While their cause and remedy; then to plan, The current opinion is, that while a worldthe earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, prayerfully and with full sense of depend- ing would pay injury for injury, "an eye and cold and heat, and summer and winter, ence upon Divine assistance, a definite for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" the and day and night shall not cease." Thus the offering of Noah was the ground of a school superintendent or teacher, young well as more effectual revenge, by showing new covenant. The offering of Christ is man and woman-every member of Christ's kindness to an enemy. If this opinion was evermore a sweet savour, and through his Church-it is for you to lay out some defin- correct then there would be no difference sacrifice the world enjoys innumerable ite work for Christ's cause and glory in in principle between the conduct of the this new year. The work waits for you, worldling and of the Christian. Both would 2. God is said to have "made summer but you will never do it if you wait for it. and winter."—Psa. 74: 17. The ancient "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it would be only in the methods they purwiters saw God in everything. In the with thy might." The work is not to find sned to accomplish the same end. 147th Psalm we read, "He giveth snow you, you are to find it. Have done with a

Will you be a Total Abstainer? 1. and talk much about natural laws. "That Your own personal safety demands it; 2. the universe is governed by law is indeed true, and is a truth of the highest moment.

But that law governs the universe is not Because your Christian character will there.

But that law governs the universe is not by he brighter: 5. It will make the church

where it comes there is life. "In summer were disputing so loudly on a knotty point ion to the judge with a view of asking for and in winter"-those who are employed of theology that they awoke a big dog that mercy, he put some flax on his head, like in spreading the Gospel are to serve the had been sleeping on the hearth before the a turben, and on this he placed some coals Lord therein at all seasons. A Divine power fire, whereupon he began to bark furiously. of fire. The smoking of the flax told the shall attend the living waters; difficulties An old preacher who had been quietly guards that some grief was consuming his shall be removed; they shall not be dried sipping his tea while the disputants were soul and that he wanted to ask mercy from up, or the course of them obstructed, either talking, gave the dog a gentle kick, ex- the judge. He at once was admitted into by the droughts in summer or by the frosts claiming: "Hold your tongue, you silly the juage's presence, who suspended any creature! You know no more about it than other trial that might be pending to hear

Jesus died on Calvary.—But on what Increasing, it is one of John Ploughman's mercy. The application is obvious. When

servants and warmed himself at the fire." are happy people, and get more enjoyment of grace. We will "heap coals of fire on Does the cold of winter remind us of the out of what they have than folks of churlish his head," not as a punishment, but as a Cross, of God's love in the gift of Jesus? mind. Misers never rest till they are put Let it be the season for active benevolence, to bed with a shovel; they often get so for "pure service and undefiled before God | wretched that they would hang themselves, and the Father, in visiting the fatherless only they grudge the expense of a rope. and widow in their affliction, as well as Generous souls are made happy by the keeping ourselves unspotted from the happiness of others; the money they give world." "To do good, and to communicate, to the poor buys them more pleasure than forget not, for with such sacrifices God is any other that they lay out. I have seen men of means give coppers, and they have 5. Winter is the season of coldness and been coppery in everything. They carried barrenness.—Is it winter with thy soul? on a tin-pot business, lived like beggars Is the mind exercised? Is the heart sad? and died like dogs. I have seen others Seek to learn experience from this. As give to the poor and to the cause of God winter is the time of growth-invisible by shovelfuls, and they have had it back by growth, which afterward is seen in the barrow-loads. They made good use of flowers and fruit of summer—so seck to their stewardship, and the great Lord has take root downward, that you may bear trusted them with more, while the bells in fruit upward; and presently sing "The their hearts have rung out merry peals meaning or not. "Him that cometh unto winter is past, the rain is over and gone; when they have thought of widows who me, I will in no wise cast out." the flowers appear on the earth, the time blessed them, and orphan children who

Will you look after the young converts? the fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and They will come in the wake of a Week of the vines with the tender grape give a good | Prayer that has been faithfully observed smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and and is succeeded by a spirit of supplication and effort. The church is wise that not only converts men, but then looks after the converted. Let us look after the beginners in a new life. They crave sympathy. Encourage them to say to others:

> Only a step to Jesus! then why not take it now; Come, and thy sin confessing, to Him thy Saviour bow.

Only a step to Jesus! a step from sin to grace—What has thy heart decided? the moments are

Only a step to Jesus! Oh why not come and say, Gladly to Thee my Saviour, I give myself away.

At the Tabernacle we have resolved to look to God for a blessing, and as far as we can by honest effort prepare ourselves to receive it. There are signs of a quickening amongst us, and we are expecting showers upon the thirsty ground, our cry

is, "revive us again, O Lord." The meetings and especially the prayermeetings are most encouragingly attended. By some means our financial statement did not appear in the Visitor, but I suppose the copy was lost, suffice it to say, that through the mercy of God our treasurer showed a small balance in hand in all the funds; we record this to the glory of God, who has thus helped us these six years in our work at The Tabernacle. I would your readers could see it, in its rude unfinished state, nevertheless we are not discouraged, we have asked help of our God and it will come, meantime we are resolved to seek first the church's spiritual up-building, and it will continue well with us. Some of our good brethren have engaged a Baptist Missionary, Bro. Archibald, of Summerside, P. E. I., and he is entering most heartily into his work. He will work generally through the city. It is not the churches work particularly, but conducted rather by individuals, for we could not financially and otherwise as a church commit ourselves, yet we trust we are not sleeping, if silent partners in this or any other denominational good work.

J. F. AVERY. Halifax, Feb. 10th, 1881.

THOU SHALT HEAP COALS OF FIRE ON HIS HEAD.

REV. T. T. EATON, D. D.

This language of Paul's is often quoted

But the apostle forbids our taking revenge of any sort. The command is not " avenge yourselves after a noble fashion," command can any one believe that Paul would contradict himself in the very next But that law governs the universe is not true. It is in no case the law which governs, but the Lawgiver, whose will is expressed in the law." The God of Nature is the God of Grace.

3. "The living waters were to flow from Jerusalem in summer and winter."—Zech. 14: 8. Blessing promised to Jerusalem in the day of the Messiah, and to all the earth. Jerusalem has become the spring of living give it up for your own sake.

Because your Christian character will thereby the spring character will thereby the sake the church much stronger; 5. It will make the church much stronger; 6. It will benefit yourself thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." But it may be asked, will not the coals of fire necessarily burn his head, and will not this be a punishment. By no means as we shall see.

There is reason to believe that the prostlem.

the confession and prayer of the sufferer, Read the following on Scattering and who came to ask, not for justice, but for pictures. It may lead thee to be one of the our enemy injures us, we, by showing the Christlike spirit, will bring him, humble "Now, you will find that liberal people and penitent to seek for mercy at the throne blessing; we will not avenge ourselves, but we will bring him to repentance. The coals of fire burnt not the head, but the flax, as the sufferer sought relief.

It is quite likely that Isaiah referred to the same thing when he said (Is. 42:3), "The smoking flax shall he not quench." The prophet was telling of Christ, and if this reference be allowed, it was as if he had said, "Earthly judges sometimes refuse the petitions of those who come asking for mercy' and quench the smoking flax upon their heads. The servant of God, Christ, however, is a judge who "will not quench the smoking flax. He will not cast out any that come to him humbly asking for mercy." This is certainly true, whether it be Isaiah's

"For ten years my wife was confined to her bed with such a complication of ailments that no doctor with such a complication of allments that no doctor could tell what was the matter or cure her, and I used up a small fortune in humbug stuff. Six months ago I saw a U. S. flag with Hop Bitters on it, and I thought I would be a fool once more. I tried it, but my folly proved to be wisdom. Two bottles cured her, she is now as well and strong as any man's wife, and it cost me only two dollars. Be ye likewise foolish."—H. W., Detroit, Mich.

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W. W. Sherar, 149 Powers' Block, dec22

Rochester, N. Y.

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