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The Christian Visitor,

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NOTICE.

To Correspondents, Subscribers and Others. Items of Religious Intelligence are solicited from all parts of the world; also, communications upon other subjects of interest, especially educational, social, and industrial topics.

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The Christian Visitor.

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FAMILY PRAYER.

Dr. Hoge, of Richmond, Virginia, at the recent meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, at Copenhagen, read a paper on family religion, which is highly commended. He gave his own experience to illustrate his theme.

Then he refers to both his parents with profound respect in these lines: My boast is not that I derive my birth From loins enthroned or rulers of the earth;

Burns, too, saw the beauty of family worship, and expressed it in one of his poems: Then kneeling down to Heaven's eternal King, The saint, the father, and the husband prays.

Are family religion and worship as well kept up in these Provinces now as in the days of the Crandalls, Dimocks and Hardings? The age has been greatly quickened. Haste and push are in everything now.

Baptist churches will not prosper if made up of households in which there is no family prayer. The closet, the domestic circle and the prayer meeting are all necessary. It is to be feared that in this driving age some are yielding to the temptation to abandon the reading of God's Word and the offering up of prayer night and morning with their households.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

Viewed in a superficial way, membership in a christian church seems in its essentials analogous to membership in any one of the many existing secular societies. At first a number of persons mutually agree to form a church, and are accordingly organized. Officers are chosen and necessary arrangements for practical work are made.

There is not a little discussion about the matter of a church separating from its members for good and sufficient causes. Every expression found at the head of this article has been used to denominate the fact of a member's expulsion from the body. Sometimes the vote is expressed by one term, sometimes by another.

Another case occurs. It is not so bad as the first. The brother's sincerity in uniting with the church cannot be doubted; but he has fallen into sin, continues in it, and frequents the house of the Lord. This is scandalous. He is duly tried. It is then moved that he be excluded.

Then comes in the case of dropping names! May not this even be allowed in some circumstances? A member has gone away from home. His residence is not known. Indeed it is not known that he is alive.

THREE VIEWS OF JOSEPH'S TRIALS.

Poverty, riches, honor and dishonor each have their peculiar temptations. Transition from one extreme to another gives additional force to the agencies that test the virtues of the soul. Is thy servant a dog, said one, when told what he would do when raised to high rank and great power.

Joseph was cast down from a sunny height in patriarchal life into Egyptian slavery. Here his virtues were tested, as they never could have been in his father's house. From being a favorite son in the home of a father, elected of God to bless the world, he found himself a slave in a heathen land.

Will he now preserve the integrity and pursue the course of an upright and independent man? He is a bond-slave! Will he sink down into the social and moral condition of the class of which he has been involuntarily made a member? Can he resist the temptations peculiar to his lot? His personal liberty had been sold by his brothers for a price.

The power of his life was felt by all who came in contact with him. His worth was appreciated even in corrupt Egypt. It opened the way to his owner's favor. Manhood and virtue always command respect even from those who are strangers to them.

The life of a young man who walks with God will be powerfully felt in any station in life. There is within man's reach a secret by which the disadvantages of the extremest adversity can be overcome. It will give an irresistible power to which mere worldly wisdom and greatness have always been compelled to do homage.

He has fought the battles of freedom from Eden to Gethsemane; and from Gethsemane till now. If Enoch withstood the corrupting influences that conquered the world in his day, he stood in the strength of that freedom given by the Son, and of whom John says, "Whom the Son makes free, they are free indeed."

God had permitted Joseph to be sold into Egypt, but he had not forsaken him. Joseph was persuaded that he had through the providence of God secured the favor of his master. Although in bondage, yet his place and duties were such as to engage the qualities of a free and honest man.

Joseph may have dwelt upon another view of his case in the dark hour of his adversity. No man's life is outside of the circle of God's purposes. Joseph was a central figure in the divine plan. Part of it was unfolded; but much more remained to be revealed.

It therefore became him to be careful how he walked in the sight of the Lord. Before his mind God's plan may have hung like a luminous cloud. Upon his spirit there may have rested a heavy sense of responsibility respecting the welfare of the chosen tribe and of the world.

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EVIL AS GOOD.

Not persons alone, but abstract facts as well, sometimes take to themselves garments not their own. When Satan tempted the Redeemer of the world it was impossible for him to conceal his real person; but he covered his wicked design with a holy garment.

The same principle was adopted in New York not long since, by a man who attempted to dramatize publicly the crucifixion scenes of God's Son. A writer in the Christian Messenger refers to illicit prizes offered through the Canadian Post Office, and so skillfully managed that the law breakers go free.

But this is not all. It will be seen on reflection that this lottery business, sought to be dignified and justified by searching for passages in the Bible, is, in its real nature nothing less than gambling.

We can easily imagine that persons in this feverish age for money getting, may have, without thought, entered into these lottery schemes; but on reflection they will not be slow to condemn it, and for the future give their influence to banish it from society.

THE COLOR QUESTION IN THE HALIFAX SCHOOLS.

There has been trouble in the public schools in Halifax on the subject of mixing children of the African race with those of white skins. In the starting of the Free Common School system in Nova Scotia, arrangements were made with the consent of the colored people or a party of them for a separate school.

CURRENT EVENTS.

The cholera still rages in Italy. Naples is especially afflicted. The sanitary state of the Italian towns is represented to be in a very bad condition. Superstition and filth have made it possible for the cholera to do its worst among the people.

General Gordon has been heard from. He holds his own at Khartoum. The rebels have been obliged to raise the siege of the city. Lord Wolsey will, it is thought, have but little use for a large force in the Soudan.

A change has been made in the Egyptian policy. The English Government has decided that the expenses of the Government shall be met first. The bond-holders will come in for their claims afterwards.