

THE
CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE.

APRIL, 1825.

Religious Communications.

LECTURES ON THE SHORTER CATECHISM OF THE WESTMINSTER ASSEMBLY OF DIVINES—ADDRESSED TO YOUTH.

LECTURE XIII.

(Continued from p. 101.)

2. Another character of God's providence is, that it is *wise*. On this it will not be necessary to dwell long, since it is implied in what has already been said, and is, in general, exceedingly obvious. Wherever we turn our eyes—whether to the heavens, to the earth, or to ourselves—we see, at once, the wisdom of our Maker and Preserver. It is strikingly apparent, not only in the original structure of what we behold, but in the wonderful manner in which every process and operation is carried on and continued, and in which the wants of every living thing are consulted, provided for, and supplied—Or if we examine the moral world, the same wisdom is not less conspicuous. Good is brought out of evil, light out of darkness, and order out of confusion. The jarring passions, views, interests, and pursuits of men, are so overruled and directed, as to be made to issue invariably in the accomplishment of the designs of heaven.

3. The providence of God is *powerful*. "He doth according to his will, in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: none can stay his hand, or say unto him, what doest thou?" How often

do we see the greatest events growing out of the most inconsiderable beginnings, or brought about, by what would have appeared to us, the most inadequate means and instruments? In the striking language of ancient prophecy—"Worm Jacob is made to thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and make the hills as chaff." From what small beginnings did the Christian religion proceed which is now filling the world? How few events have been productive of such great changes, of almost every description, as the Protestant reformation? Yet this reformation was chiefly effected by the instrumentality of an obscure Augustinian monk—for such was Martin Luther, when he commenced the great and glorious work which he was preserved and honoured to accomplish. On the other hand, the best concerted plans, and the most powerful preparations of earthly princes, have been often turned to confusion and destruction, by causes which were overlooked or despised. Whom God will protect, none can injure. Whom God will destroy, none can save. "If God be for us, who can be against us!"

IV. I am now to make a few miscellaneous remarks, chiefly of a practical kind, on the subject before us.

1. You will sometimes, it is probable, meet with a distinction made, between *ordinary* and *extraordinary providences*. By ordinary providences you are to understand those occurrences which take place agreeably to the established laws of na-

Among the passengers who arrived at New York from Liverpool, in the ship *Columbia*, was Captain Franklin, of the Royal B. Navy, who has rendered himself so justly celebrated by his valuable discoveries and his almost unexampled suffering in an expedition which he conducted over land to the Polar Sea, in the years 1819, 20, 21, and 22.

It is understood that Captain Franklin is about to undertake a second expedition through Canada to the Polar Sea, with the hope of meeting or communicating with Captain Parry, who is now in the arctic regions for the purpose of finding a north-west passage, and making other geographical discoveries.

Indian Longevity.—"Within these last eight years," says the *Canada Spectator*, "there have died in the village of Cogawaga, ten Indians, each of them past an hundred years of age—Some days ago, the curate buried a woman aged 166. There is now living a squaw, who has her descendants to the fifth generation; in other words the child has now living, her

mother, grandmother, grandmother's mother, and grandmother's grandmother."

The net expense of the Poor for the last year in the town of Salem, Mass. was only \$64 85! This result has been produced by the town farm and the wise management of overseers, by which the earnings of the paupers have defrayed all the rest of their subsistence.

The *Charleston S. C. Courier*, among many other instances of the uncommon mildness of the past winter, mentions that an *apple* of the second growth, measuring four inches and a half in circumference, was plucked from a tree in Charleston about the middle of February.

The number of persons executed in London during the last year was only 11, being less than was ever known for the same period. In 1820, there were 43 executions. In the seven last years the total number was 176.

M. Laplace has in a course of publication, the *fifth* volume of his *Mecanique Celeste*.

Religious Intelligence.

ANTICHRIST AND HIS ALLIES COMBINED, TO OBSTRUCT THE DIFFUSION OF THE WORD OF GOD.

It would be a new thing under the sun, if revealed truth should be propagated without opposition. This is an occurrence not to be expected, till the promise shall be fulfilled, "that Satan shall be bound a thousand years." Events in providence highly favourable to the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, and to the missionary cause, have taken place within the last five-and-twenty years. Opposition, as usual, has been made; but till lately with comparatively little violence, and with less success. But "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience," will not suffer his empire to be invaded and gradually wrested from him, without making all the resistance that he can. If permitted, he will move both earth and hell, to counteract the progress of the gospel; and to nothing will he

Vol. III.—Ch. Adv.

be more directly and vehemently opposed, than to the wide circulation and general knowledge of the Holy Scriptures; because, when unaccompanied by note or comment, they contain "truth without any mixture of error"—truth which he well knows will subvert his kingdom, wherever it shall be received and reduced to practice. It is also a fact, however we may account for it, that the great adversary of souls has often been permitted to mar the progress of evangelical truth in its purity; and often when he has not succeeded in arresting its progress and its influence, he has still given its advocates much annoyance, in its defence and propagation; has rendered vigorous and persevering efforts necessary, and much suffering and many sacrifices unavoidable.

We have been led into these reflections by observing, for some time past, that a more envenomed opposition than usual has been made, in several instances, to evangelical mis-

sions; and particularly by the hostility which has been organized in Europe, prompted and headed by the Pope of Rome, to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures. It is generally known that the Roman Catholic priests of Ireland, in obedience to the mandate of his anti-christian Holiness, have been using all their influence to prevent the distribution of Bibles (even in translations made by papists themselves) among the people who compose their charges, and who constitute a very large majority of the population of the whole island. It is also pretty generally known, that the Grand Seigneur has recently prohibited the sale of Bibles throughout his extensive dominions: but it is probably not generally known that this, too, has been done at the instance of the Pope. Yet, from evidence now before us, such clearly appears to be the fact. Nor has this pernicious influence of the Pope terminated even here. We do not know that he is formally a member of the Holy Alliance—He was hardly thought of importance enough to be taken in as a party, when that alliance was formed. But that he has great influence with the potentates that compose it, from his known friendship to all their principles and measures, there is no reason to doubt. Nor shall we be at all surprised, if before another year shall elapse, that alliance shall *openly* employ their united energies to stop the general diffusion of the word of God throughout their dominions, and elsewhere as much as shall be in their power. That this is at present their cordial desire, there is, we think, good reason to believe. The very truth is, that if the sacred volume be given to the populace of any country in their mother tongue and without note or comment, they will soon learn that all oppression and tyranny is contrary to the whole scope and spirit of God's revealed will; and therefore will not long remain easy under the dominion of their masters and the denial of their natural rights. It is a conviction of this truth that renders the slave holders of Demerara—and alas!

those also of many other places—so hostile as they notoriously are, to any instruction of their slaves in the doctrines of the gospel. The spirit of the gospel, and unmerited slavery, in all its forms and degrees, are as opposite as light and darkness.

Since the publication of our last number, we have received from a valued correspondent in Europe—in what part of it, we think it improper now to say—the following communication; on which we place, for ourselves, the fullest reliance, and believe that our readers may safely do the same. Speaking of the circulation of the scriptures, he states—"In Russia, I lament to say, the good work is languishing, and apparently almost ready to expire. Henceforth no copies of the scriptures are to be distributed in that vast empire, not even amongst the Tartars and Mahomedans, but through the hands of the *clergy of the Greek church*: and the Persian translation, made at St. Petersburg, is suppressed. The Pope, the Jesuits, and the powers of darkness, are most actively working, in ways almost inconceivable; even so far as to have moved the Turkish Divan, to issue a firman against the circulation of the scriptures. This was especially the act of his Holiness. But it is wonderful how these crooked measures are, in many instances, counteracted. Let us still rest confident, that "greater is He who is for us, than all they who are against us." The work is the Lord's, and we may "look to the everlasting hills from whence cometh our help."

Papoff, the late valuable secretary of the Russian Bible Society, is under a criminal prosecution, for translating a book of Gossner's, in which the perpetual virginity of Mary is combated—as are two others. The Emperor Alexander, it is said, is really shackled by the noblesse and the clergy of the Greek church; who feel that the flood of light which has been let in by the circulation of the scriptures, may prejudice them. Prince Gallitzin has been *obliged* to resign, as minister of religion, and to give

way to others.—Could not your periodicals do much good, by noticing what is going forward (particularly in Russia) frequently and powerfully, so as to excite publick attention?"

It is our purpose, according to the suggestion of our correspondent, to use our best efforts, to awaken the serious attention of the religious publick in the United States, to the conflict which has begun, and which will probably be severe, between the friends and foes of Bible societies and of missionary enterprises. We have no doubt that in this we shall have the ready and cordial co-operation of all the conductors of religious miscellanies in our country, who favour the cause of evangelical truth and piety.

Is it asked—what can be done, more than is now doing? We answer—more, much more zeal and activity, may be manifested in the cause of the Bible and of missions, by carrying into execution existing plans and measures, with greater vigour and efficiency—Let this then be done. But we do think that some *new* measures ought to be taken, by the friends of the Bible cause and of missionary efforts; measures calculated to promote a friendly intercourse among all the religious denominations concerned, without violating any of the forms or peculiarities of the several parties; measures, in a word, which shall present to the anti-christian host, the host of all the faithful living in our country, as arrayed against them—arrayed in a firm united phalanx; determined, under the "captain of their salvation," to oppose, by a combined effort, all his enemies, however numerous or powerful; determined, with gospel arms and a gospel spirit, to "contend earnestly for the truth once delivered to the saints," and never to abate the struggle, till "all the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ." When the enemies of God and his holy word unite, let not their friends and advocates be divided, or act without con-

cert. Finally—Every Christian can pray. Let him pray that God may turn the counsels of his enemies into foolishness; and turn their hearts, "as the rivers of water are turned," from hating and opposing his cause, to love and promote it. Let earnest prayer be made, both in private and in publick, that the Lord may "arise and plead his *own* cause." It must, at last, be the prevalence of "fervent and effectual prayer," that will stop the progress of error, delusion, and every wicked work, and render the cause and truth of God triumphant over all opposition, and throughout the habitable earth.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The Rev. Mr. Ellis, a British missionary, who went from the Otaheitan to the Sandwich islands, and was there employed for some time, in concert with the American missionaries, arrived about two weeks since, with his family, at New Bedford, in the ship Russell. We have understood that this voyage has been taken for the recovery of the health of Mrs. Ellis, which was in such a declining state as to render a departure from Oahu indispensable to the preservation of her life. We have seen it stated in one of the publick prints, that Mr. E. was to proceed immediately for Boston—we suppose to meet the prudential committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. We have some hope of seeing him in Philadelphia, before he leaves our country. By the vessel in which he came, two letters from Betsy Stockton have been received, from which we give the subjoined extracts. The dates of these letters are a few days more recent than any which we have seen published. But they contain little in regard to the general state of the missions—the writer being apprized that Mr. Ellis would, on that subject, com-

communicate the best and fullest information.

Lahaina, Maui, Sept. 15, 1824.

Rev. and dear Sir—By the Tamahamaha I received your kind letter, and found it truly refreshing. At the time I received it, I was at Oahu with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart. We went there in April, and did not return until August.

What I shall say to you respecting my journal I know not. Perhaps I am guilty of neglect—and perhaps not. During the first six months after we came here, I was pretty much engaged with the domestic cares of our family; and had but little time to write and but little matter to write about. I however wrote when I could, although I knew but little personally of the general state of the mission; and was fully aware that Mr. Stewart would send you constant and full accounts of it, which would be much more interesting than any thing I could say. With this in view, I have disobeyed one of your parting commands; but let me entreat you not to attribute it to ingratitude, or to the want of any proper feelings.

In your last letter you tell me “to keep up my spirits.” I wish it was in my power to say that I have always done so; but here I fear I must plead guilty. My spirits often sink very low; and that this is criminal I do not pretend to deny. I knew that the work in which I was to be engaged was great and glorious, and that it demanded all my faculties of body and mind in its performance. Still I am of the opinion that Christians at home, surrounded by all the ordinances of the gospel, and by their Christian friends at all times accessible to them, cannot judge what are the heaviest trials a missionary is called to bear. I have found them to consist, not in the relinquishment of those outward comforts which I once enjoyed, so much as in the want of spiritual food and Christian converse. This want I often feel very keenly. When in my native land, my Christian privileges constituted much of my happiness; and now, the privilege of mourning their loss will surely not be denied me. But though sorrowful, yet I rejoice. The missionary’s sorrows and the missionary’s joys are mine.—The missionary’s grave, and perhaps the missionary’s heaven, will also be mine.

Mr. Ellis has always been kind to me, and I regret his loss very much. But it is the Lord’s doing, and we will be still. I hope he will visit Philadelphia, that you may have an opportunity of seeing him. You will, I think, find in him both the Christian and the gentleman. Mr. Stewart intends giving him letters to you.

I have been looking over my journal and find but little that is fit to send you, and that little I shall probably not be able to send at this time; as I expect to embark for Oahu to-morrow, or the day after, with Mr. Richards, who is going to take one of Mr. Ellis’s children home, that has been living with us. My business there is to render Mrs. Ellis what assistance I can, previous to her embarkation; and then to return to Lahaina as soon as possible. The vessel in which we expect to sail has not yet arrived; and if in my power I will yet collect my scattered papers and send them to you.—But if not by the present, by the next opportunity, which I expect will be soon.

Please to give my love to all the family. I am looking anxiously for Commodore Hull; and expect to feast on the letters that he will bring me. The health of our family is but so, so. Mr. Stewart has not been well since we returned from Oahu. The most of the time he does not enjoy good health. Little Charles grows finely, and is a pleasant boy. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Goodrich have each buried a child on these heathen shores. I wish to finish a letter if possible to Mr. J——, before the ship sails. Please to excuse all my blunders, and consider me still your humble servant,

BETSY STOCKTON.

The following is the letter referred to above.

Lahaina, Maui, Sept. 16, 1824.

Dear Sir,—I should think myself highly criminal, if I did not embrace the first opportunity to tender you my warmest gratitude for your kindness. I know you want no fine speeches nor apologies. You are fully aware that, however widely separated from you, still the home and friends of my youth hold their place in my heart, and that time and distance only tend to endear them the more to me. The reflection that if I am faithful, we shall soon meet where sin and sorrow are known no more, is a support to me under every trial. I do not say that this reflection has its due influence at all times on my mind; for I am often dejected in this land of darkness. If I walk abroad, there is little but sin and misery presented to my view; or if I look within, there is a still more appalling sight: and when I

* We have not yet received these papers, nor any communication from Mr. Stewart.

miss the *alanni polole*,* I have not so many friends to direct me right as I once had.

You wish to hear of *shells, lizards, and stones*, &c. &c.; and I regret that it is not in my power to send you more of them. I have seen many things which I should have liked to send you, but have been unable to purchase them. Not long since a boy brought one of his former gods to sell, which was about a yard and a half long, carved with much ingenuity, and painted black. The value of the article he wanted was about thirty cents, which I was unable to give, as Mr. Stewart was not at home at the time. All that I have collected I sent some time since by a Nantucket whaleman—the third mate of which was a coloured man, who promised to present them to you himself if nothing prevented; and if prevented, to see them safely shipped for Philadelphia. Perhaps the most curious thing among them is some lava, taken from the volcano on Hawaii. In many respects it is said to exceed any in the known world.

A very able work will soon appear, written by Mr. Ellis, who was one of the deputation sent lately to explore these islands; in which a description of the volcano, accompanied with a drawing, will be seen. At the same time you will probably have the Hawaiian Convert, or the Life of Keopuolani, the late queen, who was our best and most lamented friend. She was perhaps the first true convert to the Christian faith, and at the same time the greatest chief on these islands—the

* We cannot translate these words—They seem to denote an *unerring guide*.

mother of the present king, prince, and princess. But to the point—Handsome shells are not very abundant here. Coral we have in great quantities, and some of the specimens are very beautiful—I hope to let you see them before long. Lizards we have by the thousand, and of almost every colour—some with long tails, and some with short ones. They often fall on our table, and run over our beds. The natives are in general afraid of them, for during the *tabu* system, they were worshipped as gods. I am one of their avowed enemies, and murder them whenever I can. Snakes and toads we have none;—lice and fleas of a superior quality and quantity; cockroaches and ants without number—and all these belong to our household.

While I was at Oahu, I visited the Salt Lake, which is about a mile and a half in circumference, and nearly surrounded with fresh water. The orifice from which the salt water issues is not more than an inch in diameter. As we approached it, it had the appearance of a lake frozen over, and then covered with snow. The salt crystallizes at the bottom. I went in some distance, and broke off some specimens, with the stone on which it had crystallized, to send you. Mr. E. is of the opinion they cannot be sent; but I think I shall try by the first good opportunity.

Give my love to cousin Flora, and thank her for the information she gave me. Tell her to write and let me know how all my relations are, and how many of them have turned their feet into the narrow path of life and peace. I have now a fine school of the *Makeainana*, or lower class of people, the first I believe that has ever been established.

The Treasurer of the Trustees of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church acknowledges the receipt of the following sums for their Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J. during the month of March last, viz.

Of the Second Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, the annual collection for the Contingent Fund	\$57 13
Of Solomon Allen, Esq. his second payment on account of his subscription for the Philadelphia Synod's Professorship	1000 00
Of Rev. Reuben Post, his third instalment in full of his subscription for the Oriental and Biblical Literature Professorship	50 00
Of Rev. Alexander Campbell, a member of the Senior Class of 1824, per Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, for the same Professorship	18 50
Of Rev. Samuel Lawrence, per Alexander Henry, Esq. on account of his subscription for the scholarship to be endowed by the Senior Class of 1823	15 00
Of John Shaw, Esq. in full of the subscription of Mrs. Hugh Wilson for the Harmony Scholarship	50 00

Total \$1190 63