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1851

THE

PRESBYTERIAN MAGAZINE.

JANUARY, 1851.

Miscellaneous Articles.

THE PERIODICAL LITERATURE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

THE Press is an agency of power in promoting the edification and general prosperity of the Church. The two points relating to our *periodical literature* on which we propose to offer a few remarks, are its true characteristics and its adequate supply.

Intellectual ability is a chief element of all profitable reading. Intelligence must regulate the activity of the press—intelligence in the double sense of a discriminating adherence to doctrinal truth, and of ability in the general management of the miscellaneous topics within the proper range of inquiry. The Presbyterian Church possesses an intellectual character probably beyond the ordinary average of attainment; and its standards and sanctuary ministrations encourage sound thinking and create a demand for the best productions of the mind. No literature can meet the just expectations of our people that is not pervaded by intelligent apprehensions of theological truth, and able discussions in all the departments of knowledge.

Spirituality, or *practical religious influence*, ought also to be a definite aim. Christian publications must harmonize with the spirit of the Bible. Life is too short, its interests too momentous, to lose sight of truth in its relations to practice. Whilst the requisite variety of biography, history, anecdote, intelligence, and miscellaneous reading should be interwoven into the substantial material of literature, each component part should be designed for actual and profitable use. In the midst of abounding licentiousness, the religious bearings of truth must receive scriptural prominence. The work of personal sanctification is one of the glorious objects to be promoted by the issues of a Christian press.

Our periodical literature should be guided by the principles of
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Do I love all his word, and all his people and all his ordinances? Is Christ formed within me the hope of glory? Have I truly repented of all sin, and forsaken it? Am I a temple of the Holy Ghost? If taken into the presence of Christ, could I be happy with my present temper and dispositions?

I am fifty years old, but *I shall not live fifty years more.* At least there is no probability of it. I may not live fifty months and possibly not fifty weeks. Yea, some who have fairer prospects of life than I, will be dead in fifty days. I may be dead in fifty minutes. Nothing is more uncertain than human life. "Though a sinner do evil a hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: but it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow." Lord, convert my inmost soul! Help me to work while it is called to-day! P.

Household Thoughts.

[A PORTION of our work we consecrate especially to the service of the family. The family is the fountain of earthly happiness for the individual, of piety for the Church, and of power and prosperity for the State. It is here that the waters of heavenly kindness, which fill the subterranean fissures of society, should be expected to rise in glistening fountains of freshness and purity; to flow thence into all the channels of our earthly experience, to make the wilderness of earth a garden, to swell the buds and sweeten the blossoms of religious character with a hale and copious fruitfulness. We give a separate department of our Magazine to "Household Instruction." We kindly solicit a monthly interview with the families of our Christian communion; and if we may hope to receive from the Divine Spirit a word in season for any of our pages, it will be given, we humbly trust, for the pages assigned to the responsibilities, the moral and religious design, and the sacred import of the domestic relations. The encouragement to parental faithfulness, the hopes and trials of parents; their duties, guides, methods, helps, dangers, rewards; the duties of children; their privileges and temptations, their grounds of hope for worldly prosperity, and, above all, their interest in the heavenly inheritance; these, and such other matters pertaining to the system of Christian Family Instruction, may the Lord enable us to present with some hopeful measure of his own light and love.]

THE SITTING ROOM.

THERE is, or there ought to be, in every house a room where all the household come together every day, a dear, well-remembered chamber, hung round by Memory with the portraits of father, mother, brothers, sisters, servants, kinsfolk, friends, neighbours, guests, strangers, and Christ's poor. O, my reader, do you not remember such a room? In your wanderings, in your voyages, in the group of your own family and among your own children, does not your thought go back to the days when you gathered around that ruddy, crackling fire, and when the heads which are now laid low were as a crown of glory to their offspring?

In some houses this common room, or "living-room," as our

Puritan neighbours call it; is the only room in the house; it is parlour, bed-room, kitchen, all in one. Blessed compensation of Providence to the poor man and his offspring; they can be always together. Wealth multiplies apartments and separates families. Go to the Western clearing, and before you reach the cabin, you descry through the chinks the glow of a fire, which would serve a city mechanic for a week; entering, you behold the illumination of a whole circle sitting around the blaze, perhaps singing their evening hymn. Are they less happy than the dwellers in ceiled houses? Change the scene to the uptown seats of wealth, where the merchant prince abides in greater conveniences than Nebuchadnezzar or Charlemagne; for he has baths, hot and cold water on every floor, furnace-heat, and gas-lights. You can scarcely number the apartments. You think it a paradise. Hold! reconsider the social, the domestic part. It is three o'clock. What a solitude! The father is slaving at his counting house. The mother is dropping cards at fifty doors, or stiffly receiving fifty visits. The boys are sparring, or walking Broadway or Chestnut street. The girls are with masters in Italian, dancing, and philosophy. The babies are airing with French nurses. Do these ever come together? Not in the true family sense. Some Christian merchants have few home joys, and are content to pray with their families once a day. The very name of a sitting-room, living-room, or common-room, sounds plebian, and savours of "the country." Yet I know men, rich believers, who make conscience of gathering their family, all their family; and to effect this, requires a place. God's blessing is on the room, whether covered with Axminster carpets or unplanned plank, whether hung with damask or with hunting-shirts and bearskins, where that little kingdom, a *Christian household*, daily meets for prayer, for praise, for kind words, for joint labours, for loving looks, for rational entertainment, for reading aloud, for music, for neighbourly exchanges, for entertaining angels unawares. Thanks be to God for our Presbyterian sitting-rooms! C. Q.

THOUGHTS ON INFANTS GONE TO HEAVEN.

BY THE REV. NEHEMIAH ADAMS, D.D., BOSTON.

ASSUMING the fact of the salvation of infants, it will follow, that, of the multitudes which no man can number of human spirits in heaven, a large proportion went there in infancy or early childhood. How interesting, then, to God and angels, is human infancy and childhood! if from those in this condition of life the company before the throne is in so great a proportion multiplied.

Christ may, therefore, have had in mind the relation which infants thus bear to the society of heaven, when He gave as a reason why they should be brought to Him, *Of such is the kingdom of God.*