

THE PROFITS OF THIS PAPER WILL BE GIVEN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S BOARDS OF MISSIONS AND EDUCATION.

REV. JAMES W. ALEXANDER, EDITOR. PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY RUSSELL & MARTIN, No. 9 GEORGE STREET.

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

ARISTOTLE TEACHING LOGIC IN CEYLON.—After the introduction of juries into Ceylon, a wealthy Brahmin, whose unpoplar character had rendered him obnoxious to many, was accused of murdering his nephew, and put upon trial.

THE LICENTIOUSNESS OF THE THEATRE.—Upon this subject we are now about to give an extract, not from a puritanical journal, but from a paper which befriends theatrical amusement.

The good people of this city have, within the last six or seven years, made wonderfully rapid strides in refinement. There is reason to hope, if we go on much longer at this rate, that in a few years more, we shall be as refined as the Parisians or Neapolitans themselves.

THE UTTERANCE OF RIGHT THOUGHTS IMPROVES THEM.

We see great excellence in the paragraphs below, from a correspondent of the Episcopal Recorder. The expansion of Hall's idea, that mental prayer degenerates into mere meditation, is fine.

any valuable application of it is discoverable. I remark then, the sure mode of increasing any valuable thought or feeling, is to give it utterance. Prayer and praise to God afford illustrations of the same view.

A MOTHER'S FIRST THOUGHTS.

It is much to say—yet we say it with equal sincerity and pleasure—that the expectations with which we opened this little book have been more than realized.

In these "first thoughts," effort would be misplaced and unnatural; but the evident absence of effort only excites the higher admiration of the mind, from which they spontaneously emanate.

As a specimen of the hymns, we select the following, which closes the meditation on the passage from Zechariah, "Who hath despised the day of small things?"

Trace to its source your broad majestic stream, Where navies float, and nations' riches teem. What does it show? a small and shallow rill, Moistening the marshes of a nameless hill.

Or mark you stately oak, the forest's pride! Deep-rooted, and with bows extending wide! Where was it once? in a ferny fold up. In the small compass of an acorn cup.

Or lift this eye, where yonder star minute A faint uncertain ray appears to shoot: Canst thou imagine it a sun most bright With worlds, perhaps dependent on its light?

All these are wonderful; yet stranger far Than oak, or stream, or faintly beaming star, The passive babe upon the mother's knee, Viewed as a child of immortality.

Oh! 'tis astonishing so frail a shell Should hide Creation's mightiest miracle, A living soul! Jehovah's gifted breath, Placed in a tent of weakness! life in death.

Lo! in her secret chamber sleeps the mind, Until those cords mysterious shall be twined, By which her busy handmaids find access, To break the slumbers of her deep recess.

Perfect each faculty, complete each sense, Yet all chained up in infant impotence: Bound, as it were, in mental swathing band, For Time to loosen with his gradual hand.

Believer! in such types a picture see, Of what the spirits bleed consider thee; Thou glorious creature of ethereal birth, Passing thy time of pupilage on earth.

They view thee as a jewel in the mine, All rough and lustreless, yet form'd to shine: Thy brightest graces, as a little spark, Just visible—because the world is dark.

From thee to them the interval how great, A baby and a minister of state! And yet deny it, doubt it if we can, The babe as truly lives as does the man.

Already dost thou full admiring love Follow the rays that reach thee from above: And when thine eye can bear the full-orb'd blaze, Thy King, in all his beauty waits thy gaze.

These extracts, we trust, will be sufficient to warrant the terms of admiration in which we have spoken of the little work before us.—Edinburgh Presbyterian Review.

FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN. SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Mr. Editor.—If you deem the following extracts from two letters received from the Rev. Cochran Forbes, a few weeks since, worthy of a place in your paper, they are at your service.

***** "The Hawaiian Alphabet stands thus, a, e, i, o, u, h, k, l, m, n, p, w; five vowels and seven consonants. These letters are found to express all the simple sounds of this language under one exception; and that is made by combining a and i into a diphthong, the sound of which is that of long i in English.

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ten, and perhaps those very fortunes were only the vehicle for their unsanctified souls in hurrying them down to perdition! Never did I before see the utter worthlessness of all such excuses, which I have heard, for they cannot be called arguments. Will not the magnanimous conduct of Girard, without any pretensions of regard to Christ, but from mere philanthropy, stamp an indelible blush on the face of many a professed Christian who refuses to give the same evidence of either philanthropy or love to Christ.

LETTER OF THE REV. DR. MORRISON. CHINA, FEB. 5th, 1833.

To Rev. William A. Hallock, Cor. Sec. Dear Sir.—My friend and fellow-servant Mr. Bridgman has shown me your letter concerning Tracts in China, wherein you ask particularly whether it be a fact that those speaking different dialects read one language!

The five Chinese-language nations which I have enumerated above, contain probably more than one third of the population of the globe. They have long known the use of letters, have possessed a literature, and have used the Press for at least seven hundred years.

CATHOLICISM IN THE UNITED STATES. From the Memoirs of American Missionaries, published by Pierce & Parker, under the direction of the Andover Society of Inquiry, we learn that the Roman Catholic population of this country is estimated at 800,000, the number of congregations at 784, and that of priests probably about 150.

THE FIRE OF ADVERSITY. It was related of the celebrated phrenologist, Dr. Spruzheim, who died in Boston a few months since, that in selecting a lady for his wife he made choice of one who had seen much trouble and had passed through uncommon scenes of calamity.

HASTY ADMISSIONS TO THE LORD'S TABLE. From the proceedings of the Presbytery of Geneva, at their stated meeting, February 7th, 1833.

Resolved, That it is the deliberate conviction of this Presbytery, that great caution should be exercised in receiving members to the communion of the churches; that all candidates should be allowed some length of time after their hopeful conversion, before their admission to the church; and that a full examination should take place, in every case, on the subjects of experimental and moral regeneration, and the views of the candidate in relation to the subject of temperance, and the various objects of Christian benevolence.

TRUE LOVE OF LEARNING. The only fervent and unsullied worship which is paid to literature, is the devotion of the wilderness, the closet, and the cell; half of those who surround their public altars at the present day are false priests, who seek to live only by the things of the altar, to make their profession of faith a stepping stone to their worldly advancement.

AGED PILGRIM'S FRIEND SOCIETY. The twenty-sixth anniversary of this Society was held in London on the 29th of April. The needy of the Christian church, of all denominations, over sixty years of age, receive relief. At the present time 34 receive 10 guineas per year, 43 five, and 99 five shillings per month.

FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN. HISTORY OF THE PATRIARCHS.

Mr. Editor.—I have not for a long time found a work for children of such permanent and intrinsic value as the History of the Patriarchs, written by the Rev. Dr. Alexander, and published by the American Sunday School Union.

At the present period there is a grand and unceasing battle waged between the darkness and the light; or to speak more plainly, between the faithful servants of the Saviour of mankind, who believe in the truth of divine revelation, and endeavour to spread it abroad; and the Infidel who denies its authority and essential importance to mankind, and who is striving to hinder its circulation and influence.

FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN.

Mr. Editor.—The following extract from one of the letters of a minister of New England, may be amusing, perhaps incidentally instructive to some of your readers.

There are two classes of men who are opposed to them and strive to impede their holy efforts. One party combines those who profess not to believe in the divine origin of the Bible at all—but in this discussion, with them we shall not intermeddle.

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