

American Presbyterian

Vol. VI, No. 24.—Whole No. 293.

PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 1862.

GENESEE EVANGELIST.—Whole No. 821.

Poetry.

(For the American Presbyterian.)
The Heavenly Home.

When life has reached its earthly end,
And death's unshodled soil sets free,
Where, journeying, shall its footsteps bend?
Where its eternal dwelling be?

Safe, and within the golden gate,
The Father's house hath mansions fair,
And loving seraphs thronging wait,
To welcome each earth nursing there.

Nor want, nor care, nor fear, nor loss,
Enter that ever-open door;
While eyes to weeping grief below,
Sparkle undimmed forevermore.

No moon to skies without a night—
Nor sun flames on the o'erarching blue;
For He, whose being is the Light,
Shines all those wondrous mansions through.

Thither, oh thither, send and bring
My soul from off the dying bed,
Dear Saviour, lest some dusky wing
From realms below be round me spread.

Thus, safe within my Father's house,
Forever shall my soul abide,
Nor ages yield one hour of gloom,
At my Almighty Saviour's side.

—Amrose

[For the American Presbyterian.]
SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF AMOS LAWRENCE, LATE OF BOSTON.

READ BEFORE THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA, BY W. M. CORNELL, M.D.

To young men the study of such a life as that of Amos Lawrence may be of signal advantage. Whether we consider him in the light of a man of business, as a citizen, a neighbor, as one of the great benefactors of his age; or, as a man of high moral principle and strict integrity and piety, his life is calculated to lead any young man to admire and copy. Nor should his good influence be confined to young men; for, we shall see that he labored as anxiously for his sisters, as for his brothers—for young women as for young men.

Amos Lawrence was of English descent. His ancestor, John Lawrence, was an inhabitant of Watertown, near Boston, as early as 1635; and he probably came over in company with Governor Winthrop in 1630; the same year that the town of Boston was settled. He soon after removed to Groton, where Amos Lawrence was born, April 22d, 1788. In early life, like many other great and good men, he was much indebted to a mother's instruction. Mr. Lawrence says in his Diary, "The correct lessons given by the mother in the nursery are as necessary to give the right inclination to the tender mind, as are those of the tutor in the highest seminary to prepare for the business of life and intellectual greatness. In my own case, the great, were discharged with fidelity, and success. Both parents lived to see, in the subject of their care, all that they could reasonably hope or desire."

The days of the boyhood of Amos Lawrence were trying days. In a letter to a friend, written in 1849, he says, "My father belonged to a company of Minute-men in Groton, at the commencement of the Revolution. On the morning of the 19th of April, 1775, when the news reached town that the British troops were on the road from Boston, General Prescott, who was a neighbor, came towards the house on horseback, as rapid speed, and cried out, 'Samuel, notify your men, the British are coming.' My father mounted the General's horse, rode a distance of seven miles, notified the men of his circuit, and was back again at his father's house, in forty minutes."

"He was in the battle of Bunker hill; received a bullet through his cap, which cut his hair from front to rear; received a spent grape-shot upon his arm, without breaking the bone, and lost a large number of men."

A word more should be said here about his mother, because a mother's heart is now yearning for many a young man who now hears me."

Mr. Lawrence always spoke in the strongest terms of veneration and love, of his mother; and in many of his letters, are found messages of affection, such as could have emanated only from a heart overflowing with filial gratitude. He was a neighbor, and a friend, in silent prayer, at the hour of twilight, still was about leaving us for the night, she was among the earliest recollection of her children. She was a woman well fitted to train a family for the troubled times in which she lived. To the kindest affections and sympathies, she united energy and decision; and in her household, enforced that strict and unhesitating obedience, which she considered as the foundation of all success in the education of children.

"She was never idle; many hours each day, she passed at the hand-loom, and the hum of the almost obsolete spinning-wheel," says he, "comes over the memory like the remembrance of a pleasant but half-forgotten melody."

The first public instruction Mr. Lawrence received was at the District school kept in Groton. It may be stated, that public schools were established in Massachusetts earlier than in any other State. Mr. Lawrence received from childhood possessed a very feeble constitution, and, on this account, he was often detained from school. In these detentions, he never allowed himself to be idle. From his earliest years, he exhibited that same spirit of industry which crowned his after life with success. He came nearer to Benjamin Franklin in industry than any other man now in my recollection.

You know how it was with Franklin in this respect. In whatever station he was placed, from that of a tailor, shoemaker, or apprentice to an elder brother, or a stranger, penniless and friendless in the streets of Philadelphia, a workman among the beer-topers of London, up to the Postmaster-General of the United States; Minister Plenipotentiary to Foreign Powers, and a member of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences

in the most polished nations on earth; or, in playing with the electric fluid of heaven, and rendering it harmless; in all these, the most rigid temperance, and the strictest economy characterized Franklin.

This made him what he was, the man of his age. The same may be said in regard to the temperance, economy, and industry of Amos Lawrence. In a letter to his son at Groton, written in 1839, referring to his own childhood, he says: "The beautiful images of early life come up in these bright moonlight nights, the like of which I used to enjoy in the fields below our old manseion, where I was sent to watch the cattle. There I studied astronomy to more account than ever afterwards; for the heavens were impressive teachers of the goodness of God. Father, who is ever near to each one of His children, 'May you never lose sight of this truth, and so conduct yourself, that at any moment you may be ready to answer when he calls.'"

From the District school, he entered Groton Academy. But he passed only a few months here; and then he was placed in a small store in the town of Dunstable. Soon he was transferred to the store of Mr. Brasier, at Groton, his native town. Mr. Brasier kept so well, he got into debt, and was young Lawrence and so reliable, that in less than two years, the whole responsibility of the establishment rested upon him.

The quantity of rum and brandy sold at this country store would surprise the temperance men of modern times. Groton was dispersed every day at eleven, and at four o'clock. For a short time, young Lawrence drank with the others; but, finding the desire of it increasing upon him, he made up his mind to stop drinking altogether. He well knew the ridicule he should meet with, and which he did meet with for a time, but he was still firm in the resolution of total abstinence.

Many years afterwards, he wrote to a student in college, as follows, respecting this resolution:

"In the first place, take this for your motto at the commencement of your journey, 'A little wrong, will be the difference of finding yourself in good quarters, or in a miserable bog or slough, at the end of it. Of the whole number educated in the Groton stores for some years before and after myself, no one else, to my knowledge, escaped the bog or slough; and my escape, I trace to the simple fact of my having put a restraint upon my appetite. We five boys were in the habit, every forenoon, of making a drink compound of rum, raisins, sugar, nutmeg, etc., with biscuit—all palatable to eat and drink."

"After being in the store four weeks, I found myself admonished by my appetite, of the approach of the hour of indulgence. I then declined partaking with them. I resolved to abstain for the rest of my apprenticeship, which was five years. During that period, I never drank a spoonful, though I mixed gallons for my old master, and his customer, and made not to be made to drink a drop of it, even then, and even now is here in my drawer, a superior Havana cigar, given me long since, by a friend, but only to smell of."

"I have never in my life smoked a cigar, never chewed but one quid, and that was before I was fifteen, and never took an ounce of snuff, though the scented Rappee of forty years ago, had too great charms for me. I never saw, I do not recollect, a single drop of rum, or a single glass of brandy, or any other thing, that I had any reason to be afraid of, for my present position, as well as that of the numerous connections sprung up around me."

"I have many details that now appear as plain to me, as the sun at noonday, by which events are connected together, and which have led to results that call on me to bless the Lord for all his benefits; and to use the opportunities thus permitted to me, in cheering on the generation of young men who bear claims upon my sympathies, as a nation's follow-towmen, on a more enlarged scale."

Probably, no man ever did more for his relations, his townsmen, or his brethren in the community. I mean no private citizen. His relatives were mostly poor. He was the means of making them rich, and of elevating them to high posts of influence and honor.

For young men, as you see in the above extract, he ever cherished the kindest feelings, and put forth the most benevolent efforts for their good.

About the same period, he wrote to another young man: "When I look back, I can trace the small events which happened at your age as having an influence upon all the after things."

How little young men consider what momentous consequences follow, what they consider the little affairs of early life. They often seem as ignorant of the little cause of momentous events, as the moonshine infant, grasping upon my breast upon his cheek when the Princess of Egypt opened the bulrush ark, in which he had been set afloat. That tear, excited the compassion of the Princess, and the result was the learned, mighty, prophet, liberator, and law-giver, Moses."

Mr. Lawrence was very particular in setting before the young the finger of God, in the smallest events; and, perhaps, there is not one thing that should excite their attention more. As before said, with him, all depended upon starting just right. If every young man that comes into this city were to realize this, as he did, how many more such merchant Princes as he was, would Philadelphia soon have than she now has, or probably ever will have.

He says in another place, "many and many of the farmers, mechanics, and apprentices of that day, (referring to the time when he was an apprentice) have filled drunkard's graves, and left destitute families and friends." What a contrast between them, and him, and all owing to his starting just right, and they, a little wrong.

On the 22d of April, 1807, Mr. Lawrence became of age. His apprenticeship closed the same day. Seven days after, he took his father's horse and chaise, and engaged a neighbor to drive him to Boston, with only twenty dollars in his pocket.

What a contrast to the millions which he afterward possessed! But a few days elapsed after his arrival at Boston, before he received the offer of a clerkship in a respectable house, which he accepted. So well satisfied were his employers, that in a few months, they offered to receive their new clerk into the firm.

This proposition, to their great surprise,

he declined. The reason of this declination was, the business was not conducted, in his judgment, upon correct principles. The insolvency of the firm, in a few months showed his sagacity, and demonstrated the correctness of his principles.

But so much confidence had the creditors in his integrity and business tact, that they appointed him to settle their affairs, which he did to their entire satisfaction. On the 17th of December, 1807, he commenced business for himself with Henry White for his clerk.

In 1849, Mr. Lawrence wrote to Mr. Whiting, then Brigadier General of the U. S. A. "I have just looked into my first salesbook, and there see the entries made by you more than forty-one years ago. Ever since, you have been going up from the Corner of dragons to the present station. Abbot took your place in his representative of his country at the court of St. James."

Conclusion in our next.

PROGRESS IN RUSSIA.

Russia has made considerable progress in the settlement, colonization and commerce of the Amoor river country. She has been steadily pushing a system of explorations and scientific expeditions in the Amoor basin. The new commercial and boundary treaty with China has opened a wide field of commerce to her subjects, which they are gradually occupying. Tokostak has now become the entrepot for the overland Chinese trade, while Russian and Chinese merchants are enjoying under the new treaty much greater liberty, and may reciprocally enter Russian and Chinese territory, and conduct their commerce on a much more liberal scale than heretofore.

The post stations along the Amoor from Siberia, Transbaikalia, to the Pacific ocean, have been more thoroughly organized, and several considerable towns have already sprung into existence along the Amoor river. Blagoveshensk, the new capital of the Central Amoor region a little west of the river Zea, has already assumed considerable importance and steam communication with Nicolaïvsk, mouth of the Amoor, has been established. Considerable American merchandise has reached Blagoveshensk by steamboats, and undoubtedly the time is here ere this found its way through Russian traders into Manchuria. The Russian government has opened another line of communication to the ocean, by way of the river Onura, which debouches into the Amoor about six hundred miles above its mouth.

During the last year the Russian government has made considerable progress in telegraphic communication eastward from Kazan. The line has been extended to Perm, and will most probably be opened to Omsk in the western Siberia, the coming spring. This last point is twenty-five hundred miles east of St. Petersburg, on the route to the Amoor. The Director-in-Chief of Public Ways and Buildings, Adjutant General Chelkin, in writing to Mr. Collins, in November last, gives some interesting facts in relation to the progress of telegraphic communications, in which he says, "Indeed the union of the old with the new world we must expect to see executed and obtained by way of the Pacific Ocean, which, in my opinion, will soon appear to be only practicable, and which alone can satisfy the general expectation, particularly as the Russian government offers so many inducements by its vast plan of telegraphic lines begun and to be carried on without interruption through Siberia." There are already in operation more than twenty thousand versts, and with branches almost thirty thousand versts, of lines constructed, twelve thousand versts, with branches, extending almost eighteen thousand versts. Besides all these lines, there are many more lines to be constructed to different points, particularly important to the interests of the interior of the empire. Within the present year the Pacific line has been opened to San Francisco, uniting Cape Race with the Pacific. Russia progressing from the west towards the east, proposes to reach the Pacific at the Amoor; thus the two great Powers, Russia and America, will soon stand geographically, face to face, looking across the intervening ocean. A space of about five thousand miles still divides the two converging lines, but the probability is, that within the next year measures will be taken that will lead to the organization of a company upon the basis of a union of the two systems, Russian-American, crossing either at Behring's Strait or on a line of some of the numerous islands that dot the Bering waters of the north pole, between Asia and America.

PIETY WITHOUT RELIGION.—Capt. Rifled, whose vessel was taken the other day by the privateer "Jefferson Davis," and who was kept prisoner on board that craft for a day or two, says that they had regular morning prayers. They were, very possibly, devout in their prayers, being pious, but not religious. The brigands of Italy, before they go out to rob and murder, pray fervently to the Virgin. There is no hypocrisy in it; their devotion is sincere; it is merely piety without religion. Walter Scott in "Quentin Durward" describes the same psychological phenomenon in the case of Louis XI. of France, who prayed fervently to the Virgin for success in one little crime he was about to commit; promising her, if he let him succeed, it should be the last. This is a case of piety without religion.—Rev. Dr. Clark.

Mr. Bruce, the Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Italy, estimates from the returns already in his possession, that the sale of the Holy Scriptures in Italy during the year 1861 will not fall short of what it was last year, viz., 30,000. He has about thirty colporteurs employed in various parts of Italy. The National Bible Society of Scotland has at present sixteen colporteurs employed; though the average number for the last eleven months was ten.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

I HEARTILY wish that it was in our power to exhibit to the country of the United States the precise and exact state of feeling, that has subsisted in this country ever since the beginning of the tremendous convulsion which now agitates that continent and threatens its peace and prosperity. I do not believe that at the time when the convulsion commenced there was one man in a thousand in this country who had any sentiment whatever towards the United States of America except a sentiment of affection and sympathy (a thing good-will)—(cheers)—or who felt any thing but a desire that they might continue to go on and prosper, and to finish the work, whatever it may have been, which Providence had appointed them to do. (Cheers.) Universal goodwill was the sentiment that prevailed towards America in this country, yet a deep and a help forming an opinion upon that terrific and almost convulsion when it occurred. There is no doubt of the fact, I am not pretending to reveal secrets, or to be an interpreter of public opinion more than any other man—but there is no doubt, I think, of the fact, that all the thinking men in this country did come to the conclusion that in that war which had commenced, the party which was apparently the strongest would probably prove completely beyond your powers. We were there a military undertaking of tremendous difficulty, and a military undertaking which, if it was to be successful, would only be the preface and introduction to political difficulties far greater than even the military difficulties of the war itself. Now, I am afraid that when this opinion came to be prevalent in England, that this war was a war that would be a help forming an opinion upon that terrific and almost convulsion when it occurred. 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