

Miscellaneous.

PEACE BY FAITH.

Dr. Spencer, in his "Pastor's Sketches," gives a touching account of a young woman who suddenly obtained peace by faith in Christ after a long period of gloom.

One evening on his way to church he called at her house. He found her just where she had been for many weeks. On leaving her he said:

"I would aid you most willingly, if I could, but I can do you no good."

"I do not think you can," said she, calmly, "but I hope you will still come to see me."

"Yes, I will," said I, "but all I can say is, I know there is salvation for you; but you must repent and you must flee to Christ."

On reaching the church he gave out the hymn closing with the stanza: "A guilty, weak and helpless worm, On thy kind arms I fall."

The next day she came to see him, to tell him she had made a new discovery, and on his asking her what it was, she said:

"Why, sir, the way of salvation all seems to me perfectly plain. My darkness is all gone. I see now what I never saw before. All is light to me. I see my way clear; and I am not burdened, and troubled as I was. I do not know how it is, or what has brought me to it. But when you were reading that hymn last night I saw the whole way of salvation for sinners perfectly plain, and wondered that I had never seen it before. I saw that I had nothing to do but trust in Christ—"

"A guilty, weak and helpless worm, On thy kind arms I fall."

I eat all the evening just looking at that hymn. I did not hear your prayer. I did not hear a word of your sermon. I do not know your text. I thought of nothing but that hymn, and I have been thinking of it ever since. It is so light, and makes me so contented. Why, sir, don't you think that the reason we don't get out of darkness sooner, is that we don't believe?"

Simple faith in Christ will always bring peace to the soul.

TRINITY AND ELECTION IN NATURE.

But in addition to these general analogies between the incomprehensible in Nature and Revelation, it would not be difficult, taking up one by one the mysterious doctrines of God's Word, to show that each for itself is paralleled in nature. Indeed, "no difficulty," says Sir William Hamilton, "emerges in theology which had not previously emerged in philosophy."

"I am abandoned by God and man," exclaimed Voltaire in his sickness. After a long exile, he had returned to Paris in triumph. His name was the signal for enthusiasm. He had even feared that he should expire amid the acclamation which his presence called forth at the theatre.

so left. But then why leave any? Why an election, when all were equally in need, when the power to save all was fully possessed? We cannot tell. That it is not an arbitrary election, but one that has its ground in infinite wisdom we cannot indeed doubt. God never performs a single act without some good and wise reason.

But this doctrine of Revelation, so beset with difficulties, is yet favored by all the analogies of Nature. In creation and providence we find abundant traces of precisely the same principle. Instead of a dull uniformity in this world, God has made things even of the same kind, in an almost endless diversity.

All vegetable life is not the same in beauty and greatness. Here is the cedar of Lebanon, and there the hyssop that springs out of the wall. Here is the lily with her gorgeous attire, and the rose with her delicious fragrance, and hard by springs up the weed, homely and vile. And if from God's material and irrational creation we turn to man, it is only to see still more evident marks of the same truth.

Genius walks by the side of the witless. Knowledge sojourns beside ignorance. Wealth is but a span from poverty. Luxury that sickens with its own pomp is within sight of destitution, which grows pale with famine. Men, erect and beautiful, and with every muscle and limb obedient to the will, go hand in hand with the decrepid and the maimed. And the merry peals of health stir the same atmosphere that continually sobs with the sighings of the sick.

REMORSE OF DYING INFIDELS.

John Wilnot, Lord Rochester, was an accomplished nobleman and a favorite of Charles II. He became dissolute, a votary to the wine cup and to sensual pleasure, and a defender of infidelity. He confessed to Dr. Burnet, that, for five years, his dissipation was so excessive that he was at no time master of himself. The age of thirty-one found him with his physical powers ruined, and his prospects of life precarious.

"I am abandoned by God and man," exclaimed Voltaire in his sickness. After a long exile, he had returned to Paris in triumph. His name was the signal for enthusiasm. He had even feared that he should expire amid the acclamation which his presence called forth at the theatre. But neither the shout of the populace, nor the assurance of his atheistical friends, could stay his faith on his own philosophy in the prospect of the coming judgment.

There are hours of sober thought, and times of imminent peril, when the soul seems to forecast the dying hour—when it starts at the view of its conscious errors, and utters, as from dying lips, its settled convictions. Hobbes was subject to the most gloomy reflections, and was thrown into a state of terror if left alone in the dark. He declared, on one occasion, that had he the whole world

to dispose of, he would give it for a single day to live. He died with the declaration that he was taking a leap in the dark. Paine, in his last sickness, would cry out with affright if left alone at night or day.

Volney, after deriding religion, while sailing on Lake Ontario, was thrown into a state of consternation very inconsistent with his philosophy, as a sudden storm exposed him to imminent peril. Shelley, during a storm at sea, was stupefied with terror; and when the danger was past, declared to Lord Byron that he tasted so much of the bitterness of death that, in the future, he should entertain doubts of his own creed.

PNEUMATIC RAILWAYS IN LONDON.

The pneumatic principle—using air as a motor—has recently been applied in London to railway purposes on a large scale. The first pneumatic railway experiment on this principle, was a small underground line, about three feet in diameter, for carrying mails and parcels, which has been in operation from the Easton (London and North-western) Railway terminus to the Northwest District Post-office, in the northwest part of London.

The process is precisely the same as that of a boy sucking a pea or a bullet through a hollow reed. The train stands at the further end of the tunnel or tubes, a quarter of a mile from the pneumatic machine. Then the air is sucked by this powerful apparatus out of the tunnel. Of course, as the air is gradually blown out—the other end of the tube being closed by the train—the atmosphere becomes rarified, or attenuated, and this process goes on a second or two till the air in the tunnel is made thinner—rarified—by about one per cent, and the pressure of the surrounding atmosphere outside (equal to fourteen pounds to the square inch) then presses or drives the train into the tunnel, and the sucking process going on all the time, the train runs its third of a mile in some forty-eight or fifty seconds—eighteen to twenty miles an hour.

The carriage is lighted by lamps that give a brilliant light; and, having none of the gases or smoke or the heavy jolting that attends the passage of a locomotive in a tunnel, the passengers glide along with the most luxurious ease imaginable. The ventilation of course is perfect, the whole train being swept by a gale of pure atmospheric air every time a train passes.

OUR CAVALRY.

The first year or two of the rebellion showed the Union cavalry to be greatly inferior to that of the rebels, and our artillery despaired of rivalling the rebels in this arm of the service. For some time they did not think it worth while to attempt it. The Northern roads are good, and our population is too busy and economical to waste much time in the saddle, but prefer driving where they cannot secure the steam horse.

and Tennessee are now in our possession and not in theirs. Texas might have helped them, but the Mississippi river lies between.

During the last winter, the want of food destroyed or ran down most of the rebel horses, and the care of our officers prevented them replenishing from ours. This is one great source of their weakness. But a still greater and more comprehensive cause of this sudden and hopeless breaking down of the right arm of the rebellion is that want of care and forethought which the preservation of a cavalry force requires to keep it up. The South has been a great country for buying horses, but never for taking care of them.

But besides this, the Southern cavalry are so essentially irregular in their training and habits, that the steady discipline of the North now entirely defeats it. In history, the irregular cavalry of the East was always victorious, until the Turks, whose horses were inferior, and whose horsemen had to be trained, trusted to discipline and order.

It was his superiority in cavalry which enabled Hannibal to hold out for sixteen years in Italy against the whole power of the Romans, who were never good horsemen. And when Hannibal's cavalry gave way, Italy could no longer be retained by him. It will, we believe, prove so now in regard to the rebels; in exact proportion as their cavalry gives way their power goes.

SAVE THE LEAVES.

"R. J. H." writes that an old gentleman, a neighbor of his, who has a large garden, said to him: "I don't know what on 'airth to do with these pesky leaves, they kiver up everything, and make things look kinder shuffless." According to our observation there are many others who have not yet learned the value of leaves. In their desire to keep the garden and grounds neat, they put the fallen leaves out of sight without a thought of the value of what they are throwing away.

Leaves are the natural mulch. Go into the woods in autumn and look under the leaves and you will find various seeds sprouting under them and getting a sufficient start to enable them to winter under this genial covering, and break into vigorous growth with the return of spring. The beautiful wild flowers, which die out when taken to the garden, are in the woods nicely tucked up under a coverlet of leaves; they sleep warm and awake strong and refreshed.

FROM CHINA.—The Paris press has given another volume on China by M. d'Escayrac de Lauture, whose imprisonment and tortures in that country produced a great sensation in the public mind some years ago. The present work is devoted to the state of religion in that empire.

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Yours truly, LEVI G. BECK.

From Rev. J. Newton Brown, D. D., Editor of the Eclectic Dispensary of Religious Knowledge.

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From Rev. J. M. Lyons, formerly Pastor of the Columbian Church, N. Y., and Missionary to the Pacific.

No. 10th St., N. Y.

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