

Miscellaneous.

HINTS TO MINISTERS. HOW TO BE EARNEST.

When some one asked of an acquaintance of Dr. Chalmers, "What is the secret of his success?" the answer was, "His blood earnestness."

But what is earnestness? This is not easily told. We know it when it is seen, and we cannot be imposed upon by its counterfeit; but it is somewhat difficult to define it.

We can readily tell, however, what it is not. Loud declamation is not earnestness. A man may bark, and not have a particle of it; and many assume (unconsciously) the vehemence of manner to conceal the lack of genuine earnestness; but it is a great mistake to suppose that furious bellowing, vehement gesticulations and unnatural attitudes make a speaker.

"Thunders every period of ear and almost cracks your ears with rant and roar." The art of keeping quiet is a great thing in a speaker. Subdued power is intense power, as a rule. It is intensified by compression.

"More nature off, and finer strokes are shown In the low whisper, than th' tempestuous tone."

The French have a word which we translate *unction*, that carries with it a good deal of the essential idea of genuine earnestness. It is a sort of union of earnestness and tenderness; it may be, (but it is not always,) *pathos*.

"The truth is, our very dear brethren, that every political act which you have to perform, has two sides: one which is born of duty, and the other which is born of expediency."

There are a great many persons who are discouraged because the labors that they have most honestly engineered for the good of men seemed to have been utter failures. Some of our labors are failures. It is not to be supposed that we are such deft workmen that we can strike the mark every time.

There are thousands of men who labor without any apparent fruit, but whose lives are nevertheless very fruitful. I refer to missionaries, humble pastors, and self-denying teachers, who labor among poor and ignorant men in obscure places, whose going and coming is not chronicled in the papers, who are not praised and who really do not see, after a year spent in faithful efforts to spread the Gospel, that they have done much.

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THE ENCYCLOPEDIA IN CANADA.

Whenever it rains, the Papacy is sure to have its dish up. The great political question of the day in the British North American Provinces is confederation. Popery has, or imagines itself to have, a deep interest in it, and with the Encyclopaedia in hand, mounts the wave of public excitement, to secure new conquest in the state.

Evidently, these times of constitutional changes are deemed by the Catholic Bishops of Canada eminently favorable to the assertion of their supreme control of the people in all political matters. The Catholics over the Province are known to be, on the whole, remarkably well indoctrinated with the belief in Papal infallibility; they will, therefore, submit to that Encyclopaedia, which says the fundamental principles of political freedom, and the Hierarchy is seizing the proffered opportunity of inflicting a stunning blow to French liberalism.

In the above the Bishop lays down a broad principle, which, if accepted by the people, must give the Hierarchy the fullest control of the politics of the French Canadian nationality. "The truth is, our very dear brethren, that every political act which you have to perform, has two sides: one which is born of duty, and the other which is born of expediency."

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foreign missions. For that object he sacrificed that which was dearer to him than life—for she to whom he was affianced declined to go with him. He forsook father, and mother, and native land, and love itself, and went an elegant and accomplished scholar, among the Persians, the Orientals, and spent a few years almost without an apparent conversion. Still he labored on, patient and faithful, until, seized with a fever, he staggered. And the last record that he made in his journal was, that he sat under the orchard trees and sighed for that land where there should be sickness and suffering no more. The record closed, he died, and a stranger marked his grave.

A worldly man would say, "Here was an instance of mistaken zeal and enthusiasm; here was a man that might have produced a powerful effect on the church and in his own country, and built up a happy home, and been respected and honored; but, under the influence of a strange fanaticism, he went abroad, and sickened, and died, and that was the last of him."

Agricultural.

CHANGE OF SEED.

T. E. Willoughby, of Ogle county, Illinois, writes the *Genesee Farmer*, that he obtained some seed corn last year from Joseph Wright, of Waterloo, N. Y., and "had a large crop."

CULTIVATION OF FLOWERS.

Of all the beautiful truths pertaining to the vegetable kingdom, it seems to us there is none more wonderful or mysterious than the results from planting a seed. Its germination, its continuous growth, the persevering delicacy with which it puts forth its vernal coat.

SORGHUM IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

L. S. Robison, of Ontario county, N. Y., writes to the *Rural New Yorker*. "The question is asked, 'Why do Western New York farmers neglect Sorghum growing?' I do not presume to answer the question in general, but in this community, the eastern part of Ontario county, we tried the experiment on a small scale some seven years since.

PROGRESS OF RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the half century ending with 1850, the population of the United States increased nearly four and a half fold. In the same period the number of evangelical ministers, churches, and communicant church members, increased more than nine fold.

In 1855 there was one communicant in an evangelical church to every five and a half persons above ten years of age, or one to every seven and two-third persons in the total population.

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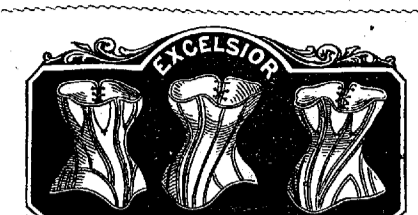
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For the Ladies.



To the Ladies.

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