

Miscellaneous.

WHY DELAY?

[From a forthcoming volume, under the above title, by the Rev. Jacob Helfenstein, D. D., now running through the press of the Presbyterian Publication Committee, we are permitted to extract the following chapter, which bears the sub-heading of The Interest at Stake.]

If religion were a matter of indifference or of secondary importance, delay in attention to its calls might admit of some justification; but if religion be anything, it must be everything; if it be needful, it must be the one thing needful; if it demands our attention at all, it demands our immediate attention. "It is no vain thing; it is your life"—the life of your soul.

THE SOUL—who can estimate its worth! Who can fully appreciate the importance of its salvation, or the fearfulness of its loss? All on earth is shadow. Decay is written on every object upon which we fix the eye. "All flesh is grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away."

A COWARD'S ESTIMATE OF LIFE. The following, from the Cincinnati Gazette, illustrates the feelings not of one person, but of a whole class of creatures, we will not call them men, who have disgraced our army.

I noticed upon the hurricane deck to-day an elderly darkey with a very philosophical and retrospective cast of countenance, squatted upon his bundle toasting his shins against the chimney, and apparently plunged in a state of deep meditation.

What question can be invested with greater importance to man than that which relates to his eternal destiny? I am to think forever, feel forever, act forever. But what will be the nature of my thoughts, my feelings, and my actions? Am I to be holy or sinful, happy or miserable? Am I to dwell in the life-giving presence of God, or wither under his eternal frown?

What are all the objects, the pursuits, the interests of time, compared with those of eternity? "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

If dear reader, your existence were limited to the present life, you would have nothing either to hope or to fear in reference to the future; or, were you an innocent creature, the future might present nothing appalling. Death to you then would be but the passport to a higher and better state of existence—"the gate to endless joy."

But whose conscience does not accuse him of guilt? Who can confront his eternal Judge, and plead that he has never sinned? Who if dealt with according to his deserts, must meet with the sentence of condemnation? Your nature, exalted as it is, is a nature in ruins. Your soul, valuable as it is, is liable to be lost.

It is safe to say that the dusky corpse of that African will never darken the field of carnage.

Every traveller through England is struck with the exceeding beauty, luxuriant greenness, and compact, velvety softness of their ornamental lawns and grass plots. It is an evergreen greenness, which cannot be equalled here without we also import the moist English climate.

Rural Economy.

MAKING A LAWN.

Independent of the average drier atmosphere, our severe and long continued droughts interfere greatly with persistent greenness, while they sometimes actually injure beyond recovery many a fine and well-set lawn. This is owing very much to the imperfect preparation of the soil before the grass seed is sown.

Through harrowing and fine pulverization must follow, and all hollows and uneven surfaces be filled and levelled up. In England a mixture of some eight or ten grasses constitutes what is called their lawn grass.

A lawn or grass plot made up in this way, can be sustained almost indefinitely by judicious top dressing from time to time of lime, plaster, short stable manure, superphosphates, and other fertilizers.

Fruit trees that have proved undesirable from any cause, may be re-grafted with more favored kinds. This is an advantage with some varieties—it takes an age, for instance, to get the Seckel Pear into bearing condition from a nursery raised tree; but by grafting it on one that has already "arrived at the years of discretion," the advantage of placing a young head on old shoulders, in this way is soon made manifest.

Buds that were inoculated last fall should not be forgotten, but as soon as vegetation has pushed forth, the buds should be examined, and all other issues from the old stock taken away. It may also be necessary to make a tie, in order to get the young shoot of the bud to go in the way from which you would not have it hereafter depart.

Above all, do not allow the month to pass without posting yourself fresh on the various methods recommended for destroying insects, or preventing their attacks. The advantage of a stitch in time is never more decided than in the great struggle with fruit destroying insects.—Gardener's Monthly.

PLANTING PEAS DEEP. Deep planting is not generally resorted to, under the impression that the seed will rot in the ground. This is a mistake.

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LUTHER'S GENEROSITY. He was a generous giver, and would never send any suppliant away empty, had it not been for the necessary economy of his good wife, he would often have been made to want himself.

Now, it was to save men from this ruin, that the Son of God poured forth his blood. He would not have shed it to save a thousand worlds, but he shed it for the soul of man. Here then, we have his own estimate of the importance of man's salvation.

TAN-BARK FOR POTATOES. A gardener at Troy, having observed that everybody living in the quarter of the town occupied by tanners escaped the cholera, determined to try the virtue of tan when planting potatoes.

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