Miscellaneous.

WHY DELAY?

[From a forthcoming volume, under the above title, by the Rev. Jacob Helfenstein, impends over him? Important as he may D. D., now running through the press of the Presbyterian Publication Committee, we are permitted to extract the following of his life. In these circumstances selfchapter, which bears the sub-heading of The Interest at Stake.

or of secondary importance, delay in atten-tion to its calls might admit of some justification; but if religion be anything, it which awaits all the finally impenitent and must be everything; if it be needful, it unbelieving? must be the one thing needful; if it demands our attention at all, it demands our by Marcellus, Archimedes, shut up in his 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 follow him speedily to Marcellus. "Stop," every object upon which we fix the eye. every object upon which we fix the eye. said Archimedes, "until I solve this pro"All flesh is grass, and all the glory of man blem." The soldier enraged at his delay as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away." Kingdoms and nations that once acted a conspicuous part in the world's history, have long since passed away. One generation has quickly succeeded another, and the present will soon vanish with the past. These bodies, so fearfully and wonderfully made, have in them the seed of dissolution, and after a few more rising and setting suns, will mingle with their original dust. The places that now know us will then know us no more, and we shall no longer have any part in the transactions of this busy earth. The heavens themselves shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements melt | not call them men, who have disgraced our with fervent heat; the earth also, and the army. works that are therein, shall be burnt up." But the soul of man holds on in interminable existence. "amid the wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds." Creatures of of ages hence we shall be the same conscious beings that we are now; and in some portion of Jehovah's dominions, shall exist in a state of consummate bliss or woe. Tremendous thought!

"To think when heaven and earth are fled, And times and seasons o'er, When all that can die shall be dead, That I must die no more! Oh! where shall then my portion be? Where shall I spend eternity?"

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? Am I to be the companion of angels or of devils? Am I to swell the undying note of redemption to the Lamb, or take up the sad lamentation, "the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved?"

Why should all our thoughts and anxieties be limited to this fleeting, transient life? Why should not man, as an immortal being, extend his views to the future, and determine, if possible, what is to be his allotment beyond the tomb? Is it not the dictate of wisdom to attend to those things first which are of the highest importance? Shall we care for straws, for bubbles, while we neglect interests of eternal moment? What are all the objects, the pursuits, the interests of time, compared with those of eternity? "What shall it profit a man if market." he gain the whole world, and lose his own

"Oh! were the world one chrysolite, The earth a golden ball, And diamonds all the stars of night, One soul outweighs them all.

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 not 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. The soul lost!-not annihilated; but doomed to an existence of eternal sinning and suffering -lost to God, lost to holiness, lost to happi ness, lost to hope, lost irrevocably and forever! What calamity can bear any comparison to this? Well might the universe be clothed in sackcloth, and utter one wail of anguish over such a disaster. The fearfulness of such a loss no pencil can describe. no heart can conceive. Heaven grant that neither the writer nor reader may ever learn its import by experience.

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. Oh, how much is comprised in that one word—SALVATION !- Salvation from sin the Elector or any wealthy person for the used was of the same lot, the Champion of and from hell, "salvation with eternal needs of others, (although never for his England variety, and the soil, time of plantglory"—not only deliverance from the greatest of all evils, but the possession of the greatest good—crowns of glory, palms his propensity to give everything away. This experiment convined us that of victory, songs of triumph, eternal progress in knowledge, holiness and bliss.

All this, and infinitely more than the writer can express, is now freely offered to you in the gospel; and shall interests so University, a silver goblet which had been vast, so precious be neglected, or put off to furnished to him, saying he had no need a more convenient season? Shall all your to drink out of silver.—Extracts from efforts to secure these interests be crowded into the uncertain future? Better neglect everything else-better beg, starve, die, than neglect the great salvation.

What object can be of more immediate death than pardon? What more important to a drowning man than deliverance? "What must I do to be saved?" is emphatiimportance to a criminal under sentence of

do with those of eternity. Every thing else demands despatch, but "the vast concerns of an eternal state" are often left to

the mercy of a single moment. A man is engaged in writing a letter. Suddenly he is startled by the cry of fire. Does he sit still, determined to fill up his sheet, regardless of the flames which are already encircling him, and the terrible ruin which preservation takes the precedence of every other consideration. And what object can If religion were a matter of indifference be of greater moment to a poor condemned sinner than deliverance from the second death—escape from that unquenchable fire,

unbelieving? We read that when Syracuse was taken closet, was so absorbed in solving a mathematical problem, that he was wholly unconscious of what was transpiring without. While thus absorbed in his private study, a soldier rushed in upon him, and bade him to obey the summons, drew his sword, and struck him dead. You pity the folly of the philosopher, so absorbed in his studies at such a crisis, as to overlook the prior claim of self-preservation; and yet what an illustration we have here of the infatuation of thousands, who, in the eager pursuit of this world, neglect the interests of the future, and sacrifice, at last, their eternal all.

A COWARD'S ESTIMATE OF LIFE. The following, from the Cincinnati Gazette, illustrates the feelings not of one person, but a whole class of creatures, we will

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 yesterday, as we are, we have entered upon against the chimney, and apparently plungacareer that will know no end. Millions ed in a state of deep meditation. Finding, upon inquiry, that he belonged to the Ninth Illinois, one of the most gallantly behaved and heavily losing regiments at the Fort Donelson battle, and part of which was aboard, I began to interrogate him upon the subject His philosophy was so much in the Falstaffian vein that I will give his views in his own words, as near as my memory serves me

"Were you in the fight?"
"Had a little taste of it, sa."

"Stood your ground, did you?" "No, sa, I runs."

"Run at the first fire, did you?" "Yes,-sa, and I would had run soona had I knoad it was comin."

"Why, that wasn't very creditable to your courage." "Dat isn't in my line, sa-cookin's my

profeshun." "Well, but have you no regard for your

reputation. "Reputation's nofin by the side of life." "Did you consider your life worth more than other people's."

"It's worth more to me, sa." "Then you must value it very highly?"
"Yes, sa, I does—more dan all dis world more than a million ob dollars, sa, for

what would that be wuth to a man with the bref out of him? Self-preserbashum am de fust law wid me."

"But why should you act upon a different rule from other men?" "Because different men set different

satisfaction of knowing that you died for

your conntry." "What satisfaction would dat be to me when the power of feelin' was gone?"

"Then patriotism and honor are nothing to you?" "Nuffin whatever, sa-I regard dem as

among the vanities." "If our soldiers were like you, traitors might have broken up the government

without resistance.' "Yes, sa, dar would have been no help for it. I wouldn't put my life in de scale ginst no gobernment dat eber existed, for no gobernment could replace de loss to

"Do you think any of your company would have missed you if you had been killed?"

"May be not, sa-a dead white man ain't much to dese sogers, let alone a dead nigga -but I'd a missed myself, and dat was de pint wid me."

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

LUTHER'S GENEROSITY. He was a generous giver, and would out in drill, and the seed covered to inches never send any suppliant away empty, had it not been for the necessary economy of sunk beam-deep, and the seed settered at his good wife, he would often have been the bottom of the furrow. In this way made to want himself. He once took advantage of her illness to bestow his plate on some needy student. He never would least eight inches below the surface. The receive a kreuzer from the students he peas that were ploughed in were a little taught; and he even refused to sell his longer in making their peakance, but writings, but gave them to the printers. they shot ahead of the others, the vines Had it not been for Mistress Luther, the whole household would have been reduced duced treble the quantity of these if the to beggary. He never scrupled to beg of two-inch drills at their side. The seed At one time in her very presence, he, in defiance of her remonstrating looks, bestowed on a student, who came to him asking money to keep him home from the Scheenberg-Cotta Family.

TAN-BARK FOR POTATOES. A gardener at Troyes, "having observed that everybody living in the quarter of the town death than pardon? What more important to a drowning man than deliverance? ing potatoes. For this purpose he placed a shovelful of tan in the trench under the seed in a part of the field, and planted the remainder the great question; and it should be covery man the first and all-absorbing question.

Men trifle with no other interests as they do with those of eternity. Every thing do with those of eternity. Every thing do with those of eternity. Every thing do with those of eternity.

Rural Economy.

MAKING A LAWN.

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

Independent of the average drier atmosphere, our severe and long continued droughts interfere greatly with persistent greenness, while they sometimes actually njure 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. In new lawns, the first and most important requisite, without which no mixture of grasses, or quantity, or kind of fertilizing agents will be of any avail in securing a perfect and compact sod, is depth of soil. The plowing should be fifteen inches deep, which can be best obtained by using a double Michigan plow.

This does the work thoroughly at a single operation, lifting the subsoil up, and bringing it to the surface, where it ought to be for improvement. In a dry season, when there is no moisture above, that from below drawn up by capillary attraction, is at all times available to the grass roots. Such a sod will seldom become brown, even in the driest seasons. While the soil should be deep, it also should be made rich by the thorough incorporation through it of short and well decomposed manure. The deep plowing having been performed in the fall, a heavy dressing of manure should be plowed in shallow in the spring with a ighter plow.

Thorough harrowing and fine pulveriza-tion 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. But many of them are found entirely out of place here, and the mixture which succeeds best, is the Kentucky green, or blue grass, perennial rye grass, herd grass, and white clover, with a small proportion of the sweet-scented vernal grass, Anthoxanthum odoratum). The two former, and especially the green grass, abound in radical leaves, and having also an abundance of fibrous roots, soon occupy the ground and make a firm, compact, and perennial sod.

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; super-phosphates, and other fertilizers.—Rurat Advertiser.

FRUIT GARDEN.

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 nursury 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 mani-

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 necesvalues upon dar lives—mine is not in the sary to make a tie, in order to get the young BANKING HOUSE. shoot of the bud to go in the way from "But if you lost it, you would have the | which you would not have it hereafter de

> Above all, do not allow the month to pass without posting yourself afresh 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

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. Peas covered six or eight inches deep will producestwice as much as those covered but an inch; they will continue sowering longer, and the vines are more vigorous, and do not lie down, as is often the case when shallow plantings are made. We have tested this matter, and therefore know from experience, that if it is desired to ge a large crop, the seed must be be buried deep in the soil. A suitable piece of ground, which had been enriched the previous year, was deeply ploughed in the fall, and again in the spring, and put in fine tilth. One-half of the piece was marked were more thrifty and vigorous and propeas flourish best in deep planted, and we have repeatedly had our attention called to the fact, in observing different crops and learning the manner of cultre.—Utica Herald.

BLOOD FOR PEAR TREES.

Years ago, when pear trees were a rarity, my father, Mr. C. H. Witter, had two large trees which were very such affected with the blight. He cut out the branches affected, dug up the earth fround them, and turned the blood of the beeves and hogs on the roots, when he butchered in the fall. In spring the tree came.

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