

The Watchman and Southern.

RELIGION, MORALS AND PHILOSOPHY.

Rev. C. C. BROWN, Editor.

Written at My Mother's Grave.

BY GEORGE D. FARRANT.

The trembling dew-drops fall Upon the shining flowers like souls at rest; The stars shine gloriously, and all Save me as blest.

Mother, I love thy grave! The violet with blossom blue and mild Waves o'er thy head—when shall it wave Above thy child?

'Tis a bright flower, yet must Its bright leaves to the tempest bow; Dear mother, 'tis thy emblem—dust Is on thy brow.

And I could love to die— To leave unstirred the dark, bitter streams; By thee, as erst in childhood, lie And share thy dreams.

And must I linger here, To stain the plumage of my sinless years, And mourn the hopes to childhood dear With bitter tears?

Aye! must I linger here, A lonely branch upon a withered tree, Whose last frail leaf, untimely sear, Went down with thee?

Oft from life's withered bower, In still communion with the past I turn, And gaze on thee, the only flower In memory's urn.

And when the evening pale, Sows like a mourner on the blue dim vale, I stray to bear the light winds wail Around thy grave.

Where is thy spirit flown? I gaze above—thy look is imaged there; I listen—and thy gentle tone Is on the air.

Oh! come while I may press My brow upon thy grave, and in those mild And thrilling tones of tenderness, Bless, bless thy child.

Wanted.

The New York Herald devotes from two to five pages in advertising the "wants" of its patrons.

Wanted—Somebody to insure fire insurance companies against fire, and life insurance companies against death, and savings banks against too great difficulty in getting the money out of them, and railroads against receivers, and all bonds against too much binding.

Who can supply these wants? There is absolutely no security for money.

God does not intend to make a sure foundation of trust in this world.

There is only one place of deposit where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal. Let us think of these things, and we may learn a lesson.

The Conscience Argument.

There is great value in ethical preaching.

For Christian defence it supplies the shortest kind of an argument.

Some Christian apologists are willing to throw away every other proof of God save only that which springs from the imperative of conscience.

What necessity is there for arguments from cause or from design, so long as God's voice is in the soul? And as God's voice is to effect the other arguments, so it is to make no great difference how conscience comes about; its authority and potency are the same.

The materialist endeavors to destroy the value of the argument for God from conscience by saying, "I can take your consciences to pieces. I can change its character by education, its passions through various essential modifications from generation to generation. Its standard is determined by its surroundings. The consciences of different people are even contradictory. Therefore, it is not the voice of God. To which it is enough to answer— that the same reasoning which invalidates the authority of conscience, invalidates also the authority of consciousness; of external as well as internal perception. The ultra idealist, too, may say, "that he can resolve the external world into a mere series of sensations. Negationist of every kind can fancifully disperse all that is into a mere congeries of forces and make all things proceed by simple necessity. This gives us a universe which is but a concatenation of atomic relations; but it destroys all order and law, and thus all thought and reasoning. The negation of reasoning cannot be set as a foundation for reasoning antagonizing moral law. It is simply the negation of everything. Now if the same argument which destroys conscience and disperses its voices into mere contradictory echoes, destroys thought also, and intelligence in the universe as well as in the mind, it destroys itself. Pyrrhonism cannot be reasoned with because it is such a reduction to chaos, as is the negation of all reasoning. Much less can it be argued to itself the position of a logical and intelligent censorship over that universe which it has pulverized. This course of thought which sustains the inspirations of conscience is necessary to everything which can be called thought. It is easy to let go of conscience but it is simply impossible to do this, and at the same time to keep hold of intelligence in man's brain and in the universe.

The last, best fruit, which comes late to perfection, even in the kindest soul, is tenderness toward the hard, forbearance toward the unforbearing, warmth of heart toward the cold, and philanthropy toward the misanthropic.

No man or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle pure and good, without the world being better for it, without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.—Philips Brooks.

Begin early to teach a child to avoid everything that is impure in food, in drink, in the air, in everything physical, and it will help you to teach him to shun impurity in thought and word and deed. Purity in everything should be the standard.

Let it not be imagined that the life of a good Christian must necessarily be a life of melancholy and gloominess; for he only resigns some pleasures to enjoy others infinitely better.—Pascal.

The Czar and the Babe.

BY REV. CHARLES F. DEEMS, LL. D.

On the 17th of March, 1865, I was coming from Petersburg, Va., to my home in North Carolina.

In the car was a gentleman with New York papers bearing intelligence of the recent death of Nicholas, Autocrat of all the Russias. He was gone. A man of great stature, of iron will, of vast energies, a born king, ruling fifty millions by his simple word, he had bowed to destiny and death, and dropped the sceptre which swayed an empire. He had died at a crisis in which he was the most conspicuous and important personage among men, at such a juncture in affairs as will draw an arresting line across the page of human history.

He had aroused the world to arms. He had brought thousands into fortified towns, and stretched tents and camp-fires along miles of hills and valleys. The stride of his ambition had made troops of orphan children, and thrilled the nations with woe. He was known to all the world, and his history, his words his deeds, his policy were the study of all who read or thought. But he had gone. Europe stood still and held its breath as the curtain dropped upon the colossal actor on a stage trembling with the thunder of artillery and red with the glare of the gallant. And then the cabinets of all governments, and the traders upon the marts of the busy nations, began industriously to calculate the probable effects of this great departure upon all the operations of mankind; and Russia was preparing to bury "the father" with mingled barbaric pomp and civilized splendor.

I was not indifferent to the importance of such an event as the death of the Emperor; but it stirred my heart very little. It was far off.

Twenty miles farther south I heard of another death. In this case it was a babe, only ten months old. He was heir to no great estate or title. He was known to very few, and very few had any interest in him—he had never uttered a word. He was in no one's way. His life made no great promise. He had almost been delicate. He was a mere intelligent "pretty little fellow," as his father was fond of calling him. He was dead. How sad, how very sad a thought was this to me! He was "our little George." All the potatoes of Europe might have died and my heart felt no pain. But this was a near grief. This was the first departure from the little flock. There was no pomp at his funeral. He lay calm and lovely in his little coffin, beautifully dead. His little brothers and sisters stood in the awe which the first invasion of the invisible feet makes in a family. A few friends went from the humble house of the bereaved living to the humbler resting-place of the shrouded dead. No retinue, no plumes, no emblazonry of ostentatious sorrow, marked the child's removal to his last home. But he was our babe. How little thought his mother of the grand griefs of a European empire! Her little kingdom was darkened. While we had read accounts of the slaughters which marked the Crimean Campaign, and shuddered at the desolations they must have brought to thousands of homes, none of the thrilling reports had penetrated and agonized us like the sight of our own dead. Nothing I ever read, or saw, or felt, transfixed me with such cold pain as the kiss of the little hands folded over the heart of our serene and breathless boy. They were beautiful hands. How often I had admired them as he clasped them when his earnest gaze had brightened into a smile and broadened into infantile glee! How often had they pressed their soft little palms upon my aching head, and buried their little dimples under my chin! Death had not discolored the lovely flesh, but had made it clearer and finer, as if it had been purged of all taint of corruption. And so I could hardly believe him dead. But when I stooped to kiss those hands for the last time they met my lips with such an unexpected chill that I felt stricken! It was as though I had been stabbed in the heart with a dagger of ice.

Oh! how different the far and the near! A quarter of a century lies between that death and this writing, but that dead babe to-day has more power over me than the man, led by the hand of the little child whose mortal body was buried a quarter of a century ago.

The Wound of Robespierre.

Almost all the historians of the French Revolution have represented the famous wound of Robespierre as self-inflicted. Most of them state that the bullet he aimed at his own head broke the jawbone, and thus made it impossible for him to speak. M. Thiers, however, makes light of the wound, and in his account of the scene at the Hotel de Ville says, "Robespierre drew a pistol upon himself, but the ball, striking beneath the lip, only pierced the cheek and inflicted a severe, though not dangerous wound." This version is now in process of being altogether upset by an account of the circumstances given in the pages of La France. This journal reproduces a disposition made by the gendarme Meda or Merda, afterwards a colonel in the army and other baron of the empire, and some other papers which support the story contained in it. The gendarme says, "I knew the man in an arm chair—this was in the hall of the Hotel de Ville—having his elbows on his knees and his head leaning on his left hand. I made a rush at him, and presenting my sword to his heart, said to him, 'Yield, traitor!' He raised his head and answered, 'It is you who are a traitor, and I will have you shot.' At these words I took one of my pistols in my left hand, and, stepping one pace aside, fired at him. I intended to hit him in the heart, but the ball struck his chin and broke his jaw." This story is confirmed by an engraving of the period, representing Meda in the act of discharging his pistol, and by the fact that Meda was shortly afterwards presented to the Convention and warmly complimented by the president upon having committed this assault. The other story is supposed to rest chiefly on the authority of Barras, and it has probably no such solid grounds to back it as the tale of the gendarme, who is admitted by M. Thiers to have been one of those who first broke in upon the "conspirators" at the Hotel de Ville.—London Globe.

Endure Affliction.

If God hath sent thee a cross, take it up and follow him. Use it wisely lest it be unprofitable; bear it patiently lest it be intolerable. Behold in it God's anger against sin, and his love towards thee, in punishing the one, and chastening the other. If he light slight it not; if heavy, murmur not. Not to be sensible of a judgment is the symptom of a hardened heart; and to be displeased at his pleasure is a sign of a rebellious will.—Quarles.

He that doeth good to another, does good also to himself, not only in the consequence but in the very act of doing it; for the consciousness of well doing is a rich reward.—Seneca.

Dr. J. C. Hiden is now residing at Smithfield, Va., preaching every Sunday and teaching during the week. He is enjoying fine health. Dr. Hiden, it will be remembered, was the pastor of the Baptist church at Greenville a few years since.

Grapes From Thorns.

Vast portions of the southwestern section of our country are arid plains, capable only of growing cactus. It is said that a discovery has been made which may render these deserts immensely profitable. It has been discovered that grape cuttings inserted in the trunks of the cacti on the hot sand, grow and thrive as vigorously as in cultivated land. It is said one man can plant a large vineyard in a day, and the vines so planted will become incorporated into the cactus, and grow luxuriantly without cultivation or irrigation. It is said melons, tomatoes and cucumbers will also grow from cactus stock, so that the desert may soon blossom as the garden, and the waste places be made glad.—Darlington Southern.

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Physicians' prescriptions accurately compounded. March 18-ly.

This Mystery Explained.

2905 Is the patent name of an invaluable remedy for removing from the human system pin and stomach worms. It was the prescription of a celebrated physician, and saved the life of the child it was designed for. It has since been the means of saving the lives of thousands of children by its timely use. It is put up in the form of powder, ready for use, and children take it readily, as it is a pleasant medicine. Sold by dealers in medicine at 25 cents.

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TRADE MARK.

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