

VOL IX.—THIRD SERIES

Mr. VERNON, N. C.  
Feb. 4th, 1878.

DEAR WATCHMAN:—Let me by all means take care, while trying to tell you "What I know," not to "know" you to tell you anything I don't know. And this "puts me in mind" of the agricultural papers and the farmer's columns in the other journals. These seem to be made up, for the most part, (yet with some very notable and honorable exceptions, I am bound in justice to say,) of windy harangues and imaginary statements, too learned or lying to be of much use. I am far from deifying, however, that the small leaven of truthful and practical matter which they contain "leaveneth the whole lump"—atones for the objectionable features; and may and does make these periodicals of infinite value to the man of culture and judgment—for he will reject what is to be rejected, and will accept the Honorable Professor Dry's resubstantiated old chemistries, natural philosophies and geologies we long ago learned at school; and Mr. Farmer Smart brags over his millet, and oats and potato patches. Such as Dry and Smart are apt to contribute to the general drift of the matter published—then some clever, sensible fellows write half a column, with more mention in his "short sermon" than is found in all the other thirty odd pages of the magazine. Now commend me to the "sifting process," when I sit down to read such "consams"—a no man of dirt and rubbish to a grain of gold.

**A LOST SON OF A GODLY FATHER.**

BY PROF. AUSTIN PHELPS, D. D.

"Wherefore do the wicked live?" Some wicked men are among the most useful of mankind. Certain poisonous medical sciences are used to fight certain diseases which yield to no other remedy. So certain examples of iniquity may be transformed by the grace of God into remedial forces for the contrast they furnish to the virtues, and the wisdom they teach to observers.

King Ahaz is one of the stupendous moments of guilt in Israelitish history. He is one of the few men in any history of whom not one good thing is recorded. His career was one uniform and unmitigated stream of iniquity from beginning to end. Not one virtue or virtuous act is thought worthy of mention in his whole life. So black and disgraceful was his reign, that when he died the indignant and revolted conscience of the nation refused him burial in the royal sepulchre.

Let us inquire what lessons may be learned from the life of such a supreme model of depravity.

1. His career illustrates that law of character by which the wickedness of a man is proportioned to the amount of holy influence which he has conquered. We find a reason for his extreme depravity in the extreme facilities which he had for being a saint. He was the son of a godly father, youth was passed under the restraints of his holy example. He was one in a royal line which had been distinguished for examples of illustrious piety. He had good blood. He came from good stock. He knew that he alone, of all the monarchs of the world, held his crown and kingdom by divine right as king of God's chosen people. He knew that a splendid history lay behind him, and that a more splendid future was before him. In the line of regal descent in which he was a connecting link, one was to appear in whom all the nations of the world were to be blessed. That ancient promise of God to Abraham spanned like a rainbow the royal family of Judah. Mysterious as its meaning was, it must have been a power of moral restraint and moral stimulus to a man called of God to sit on the throne of Judah.

Said a French monarch, when once solicited to consent to a dishonorable treaty: "The blood of Charlemagne is in my veins; and who dares to propose this thing to me?" The sense of honorable inheritance must have been a moral power of immense significance to a monarch who stood in a line of theocratic princes. And it was not frittered away and lost in mere sense of chivalry; it was a direct and potent help to holy living before God. Such a combination of holy influence this Judah king broke through; and therefore he became the man he was. The depth of his fall was proportioned to the momentum acquired in bursting the bonds which held him.

Such is the natural working of things in the experience of sin. It is a fundamental law of character. As virtue is proportioned in vigor to the temptations resisted, so depravity is proportioned to the forces of conscience and inheritance and education and example and persuasion, and the spirit of God, which have been fought with and conquered. This must always be reckoned in forecasting a man's future in a career of sin. The best things perverted are the worst. Christian birth abused becomes a curse. Religious education trampled on becomes a fountain of moral disease. Sabbaths broken become an opportunity to vice. Natural sensibilities to religion, indurated by transgression, become a foundation for towering iniquity. Convictions of sin resisted are often transformed into beliefs of falsehood. The strivings of the Holy Spirit quenched, become the basis of satanic conquest. Devils fill the place from which the spirit of God has been ejected.

It used to be proverbial in the days of American slavery, that the most ferocious overseers were Northern men who had to override the convictions of their youth and their inherited faith in order to become slave-drivers. This was one variety of the universal law which governs the degree of character, good or bad. Tell me what good influence a man has defied and scorned in becoming what he is, and I will give you the gauge of his depravity. The worst of men are apostates from the best of fathers.

2. The career of this apostate prince illustrates also the faithfulness of God in chastising the wicked men for their good. "The Lord brought Judah low because of Ahaz." From the beginning to the end of his reign, he experienced the truth that the way of transgressors is hard. In war he was whipped all around. In alliances he was cheated and checkmated. His people were made captives by thousands. Nothing went well with him. His public life was one long career of defying God,

yet of God's persistent efforts to save him by chastising him.

This is repeated over and over again in the experience of wicked men. Such men often think it a great mystery that they suffer so much. They do not understand why it is that misfortune pursues them so. "Just my luck," says one, when ill success attends his business. Yet often the secret reason is that God is trying to save the man. He is contending with God in one way, and God is contending with him in another. There is no luck about it. It is God's faithfulness to the soul at the expense of the pocket.

"It is a great mystery; I do not understand it; it is unjust," says an ungodly man whom disease lays low, perhaps just on the eve of splendid successes. The cup is dashed from his lips, just when he is best able to enjoy it. Ill health follows him perhaps till he is glad to find such rest as he can in the grave. Often it is no mystery. It is God's striving to save the man. It is God's faithfulness to his soul, at the cost of his body. Somebody's prayers are answered in his affliction.

In one of the works of a popular author of fiction, a wicked man, engaged in a wicked business, is represented as scolding and swearing at and beating his Christian wife, because she persists—poor soul!—in praying for him. He protests that she shall stop praying, or he must stop his business. Both cannot go on together; one or the other must give way. He thinks he has tried it and found it so. The fancy is often true to fact. Often prayer cannot be answered except by chastising a man. He must be whipped out of his sins or he never can be a happy man. This is the secret of the misfortunes of many an ungodly man.

The sufferings of this world are not in a strict sense retributive. They are disciplinary. The world of retribution lies farther on. In love, God holds the rod over many a bad man. He strikes him here, and he strikes him there. God's flail threshes him like wheat. He snarls round him with trouble. He heaps up misfortunes. They come thick and fast. Life is one long disappointment. "Few and evil have my days been," is his lament as he looks backward: "All is vanity and vexation of spirit." Is not this the general feeling with which men reach old age with out the consolations of religion? "Oh that I had never been born!" exclaimed Voltaire in his old age. But in this experience of the wicked, God is never vindictive. This is his way of striving to save men from eternal death. Sometimes he pursues it to the very last, till the grave closes over the incorrigible sinner, and he passes on to a world where the retributive decisions of eternity displace the benign discipline of time.

3. The life of this depraved prince illustrates further the extreme which sin reaches when men fight successfully against God's chastisements. "In the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the Lord." This is the fearful phenomenon sometimes witnessed in the developments of sin in this world. Some men are not subdued by suffering. They refuse to bow to chastisement. The more they suffer, the more they sin. Trouble angers them against God. They indicate their growing fitness for the world of woe in this induration of heart by which susceptibility to the softening effect of sorrow is destroyed. Sometimes this phenomenon is witnessed on a large scale. Times of pestilence are proverbially times of unusual wickedness in great cities. The great plague in London developed the vices of the metropolis frightfully. Men patrolled the streets singing ribald songs beside the dead-cart. In the peril of shipwreck, two classes of sufferers are often observed: those whom the peril subdued to prayer, and those whom it drives to the rum-bottle.

When the Pemberton Factory fell, two classes of sufferers were crushed under the ruins; and two sets of voices came forth from the smoke and flames. The favorite hymns of the Methodist church from the one drowned the curses and imprecations from the other. Thus the two went up on these wings of fire to meet God! How like to the contrast of the two crucified thieves: "Lord remember me," and "If thou be Christ save thyself and us!"

Few things are so truthful a touchstone to the character of men as the way in which they treat the suffering which God sends as chastisement. One man turns at its bidding and becomes an heir of glory; another defies it and becomes a monument of perdition! Lord, who maketh us to differ?

4. The reign of this wicked monarch illustrates the disappointment which wicked men experience in their hopes of happiness in sin. The historian relates of him: "He said, Because the gods of the kings of Syria help them, therefore will I sacrifice to them that they may help me."—"But they were the ruin of him. True to the life, every word of it! In no more truthful figure can we express the experience of many young men living for this world alone, as it seems to a looker-on, on the top of the wave of human felicity. A rich man seems to them a supremely happy man. A successful statesman appears to have all that an aspiring man can ask for. A man who has gained the summit of social rank and splendor becomes to many who are below him the model of earthly bliss.

2,000 Persons Perish in a Fire.

PARIS, Feb'y 4.—A telegram, dated Shanghai, China, yesterday, Feb'y 3th, 1878, published here, announces that an asylum for women and children at the city of Tientsin has been burned. Over two thousand persons are stated to have perished in the fire.

**SUSAN B. ANTHONY AS HEAD OF THE INDIAN BUREAU.**

(See Mrs. Hooker's recent speech.)

Susan to Indians.—Now, Indians, be still. Keep quiet. Sitting Bull, sit down. Sitting Bull, your's is not a nice name at all. After this you must be called Sedentary Boyine. It's more elegant. If any one thinks it too long, let 'em call you "Sed. Bo."

Sitting Bull.—Me want my land back.

S. B. A.—Sedentary Boyine, who's got your land?

S. B.—White man!

S. B. A.—White people go off that Indian's land immediately.

White man to S. B. A.—Dry up. Bag your head. Go home. Skip!

S. B. A.—White man, you drive those white men off the Sedentary Boyine's land!

Mr. H.—Madame, I'd like to do anything to oblige you, but care and deliberation are necessary in these matters. We must take time. We must move slowly. Rome was not built in—

S. B. A.—Oh, fudge! Why don't you do something? If you're President, why don't you be President? Chief Joseph, what do you want?

C. J.—White man got my land. Want it back.

S. B. A.—White man, go away from Joseph's land.

White Man.—(Uses language to S. B. A. which cannot be printed.)

Susan to Mr. Hayes.—There! do you hear that? Will you, the President of these United States, sit down, or stand by, or sit up and hear such language as that used to me—a respectable woman—by such a nasty, dirty, low, vulgar, greasy, foul-mouthed, skulking, thieving, lazy, good-for-nothing loafer, bummer, tramp, outlaw, murderer, thief, robber, as that? Hey! (stamps her foot and whacks the table with her umbrella.)

Mr. H.—Really, Madame, you see I am placed—that is, I have no power to remove these countrymen of mine—without—

S. B. A.—Power! Ain't you President? Or ain't you? O, I wish I was President of this country for about five minutes. Hija, what do you want?

Ponce Chief.—White man got my land, horse, cow, farm, school-house. Glib me tin medal for 'em. No good. Want 'em back.

S. B. A.—Now, Mr. Hayes, can't you do this poor Indian justice?

Mr. H.—But, Susan, you can't do in these matters just what you want. Now, Susan, do be quiet. Your back hair is all a comin' down. You've broke your umbrella. Here's Mr. Schurz. He'll tell you all about the Ponces.

S. B. A.—Well, Schurz, will you stand by me and see this injustice done?

Schurz.—Vat was der matter?

S. B. A.—Matter? Why that Ponce outrage.

Schurz.—Yaw! Susan, we trinks zwie lagger toggeder, and talks 'em over a letter.

S. B. A.—Beer! Beer for me! Me sue you, like a lazy, good-for-nothing Dutchman, (here the Cabinet Council breaks off.)

**ENGLAND ON SEA AND SHORE.**

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

The official report of the strength of the British navy for 1878 shows that there are in commission 297 ships of war, with 2,647 guns, aggregating 874,203 tons, and steam power equivalent to 570,806 horses. There are also 78 steam gun-boats, with from one to four guns each, aggregating 26,034 tons and 22,247 horse power; 31 steam vessels in the harbor service; 123 sailing ships, nine of them armor plated; 29 coal ships; 15 receiving ships and 12 training ships; 28 coast guard cruisers and 19 coast guard watch vessels. The total strength, therefore, is 579 vessels of 915,500 tons burthen; with 2,819 guns, and steam power equivalent to 608,443 horses. Sixty-four of these vessels are powerful iron-clads. These figures we take from the Financial Reform Almanac for this current year, which remarks: "So far as the numbers stated go, it appears that we have an Admiral for each of the 297 vessels in commission, with 35 to spare for receiving, store, training and surveying ships, dispatch and tug vessels, yachts, etc., and 43 more than one for every two of the 579, including coal depots, chapels, hospitals and reformatories. There is a similar gilt with regard to the army. Of Generals, counting those on the active list only, there is one for every two of the 151 regiments, with 204 to spare. There is a Lieutenant Colonel for each of them, with three over, and for every regiment there are three Major Generals within 78, six Colonels with 19 over fifteen, Lieutenant Colonels with 44 over, and nine Majors with 116 to spare. Proportionately, therefore, if not actually, we are more abundantly supplied with officers than even the great military powers of the Continent. Of regular troops we have 151 regiments; of militia, yeomanry and volunteers, 488 regiments, making a total of 639 regiments, to say nothing of pensioners and reserves. We have also a sea force more powerful than that of any two other naval powers, and the advantage of an insular position instead of open frontiers. We are in a state of profound peace with the world, and may so continue if we please. Yet, notwithstanding all this, there are persons among us who believe, effect to believe that there is nothing to prevent the landing of a hostile force of 100,000 men upon our shores in a single night, and that there will be no safety for us until every able-bodied man among us is trained to arms."

**THE GEOLOGY OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

We learn that a course of lectures on the special geology of North Carolina, its physical geography, climatology, &c., will be delivered at the University, commencing February 18th, by the State Geologist, Professor Kerr. This is under the mandate of an act of the Legislature, the object being to stimulate the study of the resources of our State. North Carolina has hid in her bosom vast treasures of minerals and ores, not only undeveloped but absolutely unknown.

It is hoped that our young men from all sections may be induced by this special instruction of an accomplished lecturer to take greater interest in their own State, and be stirred up to discover and develop those resources.

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The former private secretary of President Polk has been discovered, old and poor, in Santa Fe. He knew Andrew Jackson, and describes an incident that happened while he was staying at the General's house, after the death of Mrs. Jackson. One morning he arose very early and started to walk toward the old family cemetery. He approached rather close to the grave of Mrs. Jackson, and was surprised to find the General himself kneeling over it. He retraced his footsteps as soon as possible, but not too soon for the quick eye of the old soldier to see him. Afterwards he spoke to his visitor about the matter, and said that the act in which he had beheld him was no uncommon one. Every morning, he said, he went to the grave, for he thought that the proper place for him to conduct his religious devotions was by the remains of his wife, who had been so dear to him, and who had so great and so abiding a faith in the graciousness of the Ruler of the universe.

**Law Against Filting.**

(From the Petersburg Intelligencer.)

Burke, in his History of Virginia says: "I find that the Governor was obliged soon after to issue a proclamation forbidding women to contract themselves to two several men at one time. For women being yet scarce, and much in request, this offence was become very common; whereby great disquiet arose between parties and no small trouble to the government. It was therefore ordered. That every minister should give notice in his church that what woman soever should use any word or speech, tending to a contract of marriage, to several persons at one time, although not precise and legal, yet so as might entangle or breed scruple in their conscience, should, for such their offence, either undergo corporal correction, or be punished by fine, or otherwise, according to the quality of the person so offending."

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(Washington Star.)

Both the Senate and the House Committees on Pensions have now concurred in recommending that the names of all pensioners stricken from the rolls on account of alleged disloyalty during the period of the late war shall be restored.

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It is stated that in Southern California men outnumber the women ten to one, and that several shiploads of marriageable women could be marketed right off.

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**Law Against Filting.**

(From the Petersburg Intelligencer.)

Burke, in his History of Virginia says: "I find that the Governor was obliged soon after to issue a proclamation forbidding women to contract themselves to two several men at one time. For women being yet scarce, and much in request, this offence was become very common; whereby great disquiet arose between parties and no small trouble to the government. It was therefore ordered. That every minister should give notice in his church that what woman soever should use any word or speech, tending to a contract of marriage, to several persons at one time, although not precise and legal, yet so as might entangle or breed scruple in their conscience, should, for such their offence, either undergo corporal correction, or be punished by fine, or otherwise, according to the quality of the person so offending."

**DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING AGIN HIM.**

The granger in the Kentucky Assembly means to tolerate the lawyer therein. This we gather from a wondrous speech of a rural member: "I follow agricultural pursuits," said he, adding rather indignant, "I am a farmer, and am proud of it. But I have nothing against lawyers, the class that my honorable friend represents. I am like an old Methodist preacher who, when he went around to the members of his congregation came across an old lady in spectacles. "Do you love the Lord?" he asked. "Well," she says, "partly, I ain't got nothin' agin him."

**Blue and Gray on the Same Footing.**

(Washington Star.)

Both the Senate and the House Committees on Pensions have now concurred in recommending that the names of all pensioners stricken from the rolls on account of alleged disloyalty during the period of the late war shall be restored.

**There is much food for reflection in the statement of Bishop Foster and the condition of things it implies.**

It is stated that in Southern California men outnumber the women ten to one, and that several shiploads of marriageable women could be marketed right off.

**THE CHUFA EXPERIMENT.**

Two years ago we presented an old friend, Cornelius Stephens, of Elevation township, Johnston county, with a small lot of chufa seed, and asked a favor, that he would try them, at the same time giving him a printed circular as to how to plant and cultivate. We met him at the store of Messrs. Adams & Bingham yesterday and asked him how he made out with the chufas. His answer was excellent as follows: "I planted one peck of chufas on one acre of ordinary sand land and used 100 pounds fertilizer and two barrels ashes. I have raised 800 pounds of peas that never saw any cow peas or potatoes. I have wintered fifteen shots and two old sows without anything but the chufa. They are now fat pork. I lost my potatoes because my bugs would not eat them while they could get the chufa. The chufa patch kept up thirty head of geese and fifty head of chickens up till now, and I have to-day brought twenty dozen eggs to market. I never sold any eggs in February before. Have plenty of chufas in the patch; think there are several bushels yet. I dug twelve bushels.

**THE GEOLOGY OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

We learn that a course of lectures on the special geology of North Carolina, its physical geography, climatology, &c., will be delivered at the University, commencing February 18th, by the State Geologist, Professor Kerr. This is under the mandate of an act of the Legislature, the object being to stimulate the study of the resources of our State. North Carolina has hid in her bosom vast treasures of minerals and ores, not only undeveloped but absolutely unknown.

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It is hoped that our young men from all sections may be induced by this