

THE WEEKLY GLEANER.

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All letters on business must be POST PAID, or they will not be attended to.

SELECTIONS.

FROM MEWEN'S ESSAYS.

The superior and distinguishing advantages of the Christian in this life.

"It is true, there are beasts which excel us in bulk of stature, in perfection of sense, in vigor of nerves, in swiftness of their motion. The inhabitants of air are accommodated with wings; of water, with fins. What then! are we not still emperors of the world! Yes, we are. Reason asserts our superiority, and reduces the most fierce, the most unwieldy, the most untractable of the brutal kind, under our yoke. By reason we put bits in the horses' mouth; tame the elephant, conquer the lion. Birds and fishes are caught in their own elements, and served up at our tables. This heavenly gift maintains our glorious prerogative. We ascend where they dare not soar, and trace the paths of the stars. Nor are the goods of fortune, glory, learning, much unlike the qualifications of the irrational kind, when compared with the superior excellencies of true wisdom, goodness, and religion. Be it so; the christian is not versant in mathematics, in history, in systems of philosophy; not a logician, not an orator. He never stormed a town, nor gained a victory. He has not what men call riches and honors. His clothes are not besmeared with gold. He ploughs not half a country with his oxen. He is not addressed with the high and sounding titles of your lordship, and your grace. He lives remote from courts and palaces, and is not surrounded with a numerous train of servants. The circle of his acquaintance is small. He lives not in the annals of time. He is not talked of among distant nations. But when he dies, he is forgotten. Yet let him not envy the great, the wealthy, the renowned; for, if true riches, if glorious honors, if refined pleasures can make him blessed, he is a happy man. He is not learned; but he is wise in what imports him most to know, as an immortal creature, wise unto salvation. Behold his knowledge! for as the twinkling stars of night are eclipsed by the glorious star of day, so is the wisdom of the world, by that which cometh from above. He is not powerful; but he hath taken the kingdom of heaven by violence, laid hold on eternal life, and subdued his earthly affections. Behold the wonders of his might! He is not wealthy, but he is rich in hope; contentment is his natural wealth. He complains not of unsatisfied desires. Behold his riches! He is not honorable; but God is his father, Christ his brother, angels his servants, righteousness is his garment, holiness his ornament, the cross is his coat of arms, heaven is his inheritance, christian is his style. Behold his dignity! He is not renowned; but God commends him, angels applaud him. His glory is not bounded by the stars, nor ended

by the conflagration. Behold his fame! In bondage, he is free; in poverty he is rich; in obscurity he is illustrious. Happy man! enjoy thyself in the possession of true felicity; while others hunt after the shadow, and weary themselves in vain."

FROM THE WASHINGTON (OHIO) REPUBLICAN.

ATTENTION! THE UNIVERSE!!

An imposter was brought into this town, on the 13th inst. who declared himself to be Jesus Christ; and that he had recently come from heaven on purpose of judging the world, which was shortly to be at an end. He attempted proving his divinity, by showing the prints of the nails on the different members of his body; his judgment here was rather nonsuited; for the citizens invariably believed him to be, not only an imposter, but a felon, whose actions at some period, had merited an acquaintance with *hand cuffs* and *fetters*.

This strange prodigy is remarkably expert in quoting scripture, and he is not without followers, as might be expected; he has erected his throne, for the purpose of judging the world, at Leatherwood, about seven miles from this place, where he has been for about five weeks. On the 12th inst. he ascended his throne, with all the pomp and presumption imaginable, and commenced the execution of his mission. On the same evening, after having suspended his judgments, he repaired to the house of one of his followers, (who accompanied him to this place,) where all his proselytes, about twenty, were collected for the alone purpose of worshipping him: at his presence they immediately prostrated themselves at his feet, calling him the true God. Amongst these enthusiastic devotees, are found some who were formerly considered the most respectable citizens of that neighborhood; even some who have preached the gospel in at least two different bodies, and have now descended to worship this strange god, who declares that he can shake heaven and earth with his nod, that he can engulf the human family in the vortex of oblivion, if he should but say it, and that the whole hosts of heaven are prompt in the execution of his word.

The imposter was taken before a magistrate of this place, who could find no accusation (*mirabile dictu!*) against him; there being no law applicable to a god, and consequently, Jupiter was dismissed.

A citizen of Leatherwood, knowing the injury he had done to his followers—some of whom were entirely deranged, others, careless of property, had turned their flocks into their cornfields,—could not permit him to go with impunity, but immediately smote the divinity and gave him an opportunity of escaping. He embraced it, and left town with seventy-five or a hundred citizens after him.

Such superstition and blind enthusiasm as has been exhibited at Leatherwood on the present occasion, of which this is but the outlines, has been unparalleled in modern times, even amongst the rude and barbarous tribes of the West, yea the heathen mythology, the history of Hindoos, or Hottentotts, can scarcely present us with any thing exhibiting such a degree of human depravity, or which has raised into such a horrid flame all the impure and diabolical passions, which rage in the human heart.

From "Guesses at Truth," by Two Brothers. London, 1828.

The mind is like a trunk, if well packed, it holds almost every thing; if ill packed, next to nothing.

It is well for us that we were born babies in intellect. Could we understand and reflect upon one half of what most mothers at that time say and do to us, we should draw conclusions in favor of our importance, which would render us insupportable for years. Happy the boy whose mother is tired of talking nonsense to him before he is old enough to know the sense of it.

I love to gaze on a breaking wave. It is the only thing in nature which is most beautiful in the moment of its dissolution.

Seeking is not always the way to find; or Altimira would have found a husband long ago.

A great man mostly disappoints those who visit him. They are on the look out for his thundering and lightning, and he speaks about common things much like other people; nay, sometimes he may even be seen laughing. He proportions his exertions to his excitements, having been accustomed to converse with deep and lofty thoughts, it is not to be expected that he will flare or sparkle in ordinary chit-chat. One sees no pebbles glittering at the bottom of the Atlantic.

The tower of Babel could never have been built in a mountainous country; nature there awes and defies rivalry.

Simplicity of Manners.—If we look into the manners of the most remote ages of the world, we discover human nature in her simplicity—and the more we come down to our own times, and may observe her hiding herself, in artifices and refinements, polished insensibly out of her original plainness, and at length entirely lost under form and ceremony, (and what we call) good breeding. Read the accounts of men and women as they are given us by the most ancient writers, both sacred and profane, and you would think you were reading the history of another species.—Addison.

Rein Deer.—The speed of the rein deer is very considerable, and his power in supporting the fatigue of a long journey very great. His pace, ascertained by an experiment, over a short distance, is nineteen miles an hour. Remarkable anecdotes, are told of the swiftness with which rein deer journies have been performed. In one instance, in 1699, an officer who carried the news of an invasion from the frontiers of Norway to Stockholm, went with a single rein deer and sledge, a distance of 840 miles, in forty-eight hours. The faithful animal dropped down dead at the end of his journey.—*London Magazine.*

Methuselah not so old as he might have been.—The London Atlas tells us that according to one of the Jewish authorities, Methuselah did not live so long as he might have done had he attended to good advice; for it is written that as he was sleeping on the ground when well stricken in years, an angel came to him and told him that if he would rise up and build himself a house to lie in, he would live 500 years longer. Methuselah made answer, that it was not worth while to take a house for so short a term! And so he died before he was a thousand years old.