# Poetry.

For the N. C. Christian Advocate.

And thou hast won a tender bride: Then let me breathe a prayer For thee and her who by thy side Thy joys or woes must share.

Thou art full happy now, I know, With thy confiding wife; I would it should continue so, Even to the end of life.

I would not that a cloud should come To east its gloom around The brightness of thy happy home, Where peace and joy abound.

There is a star-a brilliant dream Of pleasure, in thy heart: I would not that a single beam Should from that star depart.

Thou hast for years a hope of joy, Felicity like this; I would not that corrupt alloy Should mingle with thy bliss.

I would that joy to thee and thine Should be profusely given; Thy only parting here should be To re-unite in Heaven,

Weldon, N. C.

### For the N. C. Christian Advocate. THE BIBLE.

"Search the Scriptores; for in them ye think ye have eternal life." - Jons, v: 39. This little book I'd rather own Than all the gold and gems That e'er in monarch's coffers shone-Than all their diadems.

Nay, were the seas one chrysolite, The earth a golden ball, And diamonds all the stars of night, This book were worth them all.

Here He who died on Calvary's tree Huth made that promise bless'd: "Ye heavy-laden, come to me, A bruised reed I will not break, A contrite heart despise; My burden's light, and all who take

My yoke shall win the prize !" Yes, yes, this little book is worth All else to mortals given; For what are all the joys of earth Compared to joys of heaven? This is the guide our Father gave To lead to realms of day-A star whose lustre gilds the grave-"The Light-the Life-the Way."

ALIQUIS. Raleigh, March, 1856.

## Communications.

For the N. C. Christian Advocate. Historical Pictures. ALEXANDER AND THE JEWISH HIGH should, suddenly, be spared the sword, PRIEST.

What a singular incident is that redrous work of Providence, worthy the Jewish high priest in connection with infinite wisdom which conceived it. the imperious visit which the former made to the City of Jerusalem. Profane History does not furnish any thing more powerfully illustrative of a divine Universalism-Future Punishment.-Is agency than this. It comes back to us for the overthrow of the devoted city. cannot do. If the penalty of sin in I-addus feels all the critical nature of endured in this life by the sinner, it

our. There was a time when a power went forth with Israel to battle, before. flashes a dream which once visited his couch in the royal palace of Macedon. Amid his ambitious schemes for the conquest of Persia, a messenger was to the stake? Who can be at a loss both extensive and growing. At the his troops, thenceforth invincible; and in that spirit messenger and the Jewish High Priest he discovers one and the same person. A compact is formed : the chieftain who could shed tears over the mound of Achilles, worshipping him as a demi-god, is received with open arms by the anointed representavah. What a solution of the problem begot by the prophecy of Daniel-that Judea, from being an object of wrath,

For the N. C. Christian Advocate.

and lifted high in the estimation of

Alexander. It was altogether the won-

Man punished in this world?

through the night and chaos of hea- The universalist assumes that man then worship like a full burst of sup- is punished in this world for all his pressed sunshine. The prophecy of sins, and as it is unjust to punish man Daniel had now been fulfilled to the twice for the same offence, they infer very letter. The grasping ambition that he will not be punished in the of Persia had been disappointed at the next. But is this assumption true ?very moment of acquiring universal Is the present a state of retribution? dominion; its friendless monarch had Is the sinner punished here? We first seen his crown sticken to the dust, think not. The present condition of his wife and children sharing the cap- Society forbids it. Society is in a snow which amply demonstrate that, in rolina, renders unnecessary any apolotivity of his meanest soldiers, and was mixed state, formed by the association himself finally murdered in the most of the virtuous and vicious-the holy inhuman manner by a brutal dependent; and unholy—the pure and impure—the the very name of the once proud king- righteous and the wicked. To inflict dom of Cyrus had become a dishonora- punishment on the wicked to the full ble blot. He whom Demosthenes, in extent of the divine penalty, in the presdeclamatory heat, had called a boy, ent state of Society, would necessarily was grown to be a man; a man, not involve the good in the same general only in the accumulation of bone and ruin. The righteous and the wicked muscle, but in the bolder and more are often subjects of the same governprominent features of manhood. With ment, members of the same family an insignificant host of Macedonians -belonging to the same household. and hired troops, he had crossed the They often sustain to each other the Hellspont, and that too in the very face near and endearing relation, of husband of his self-confident foe. On the banks and wife, parents and children, brothof the rapid Granicus he had tested ers and sisters, friends and neighbors. the character of Persian courage, and They are frequently associated in the vanquished Memnon, the most efficient same business, as partners in the same of the Persian generals. Finally, at firm, and are therefore mutually de-Issus and Arbela, Darius himself went pendant one upon the other. So, from down, and the world in reality had but their social relations, business connecone king. In the year previous to tions, and mutual dependence, it would that in which the last-mentioned battle be impossible to punish the wicked was fought, the conqueror had subjuga- without involving good, to a great exted Tyre, and now, in his search for tent, in the same suffering. Besides, fresh conquests, he must needs whet his the very presence, care, attention, symsword upon the unoffending province of pathy, and affection of the good, would Judea. The heritage of the sons of soothe the Sorrows, alleviate the suffer-Jacob was divided by faction and mis- ing, and ward off the punishment of rule. In a temple of mockery built the wicked. But the suffering comupon Mount Gerisim, a descendant of mon to earth, while it is partly in punthe apostate son of Jehoida was blen- ishment for sin, cannot be the full exding the worship of the living God with tent of the penalty of God's law, bethe worship of idols. What a pity cause it is not suited to man's entire that some drunken Macedonian had nature. The suffering endured here not thrown a consuming torch where is mostly physical-suited to man's aniits beams would have caught the mal nature. It is not intended to reach flame. But it was not so. Alexander and take hold of the soul. It is poverapproaches the city which the blessed ty, want, pain, disease, death-suffer-Jesus afterwards so bitterly wept over. ing suited to the outward man, that He demanded, not asked, (for his proud does not reach the finer elements of soul, swollen by the intoxication of con- man's spiritual nature. Again, that quest could not stoop so far,) that his cannot be the appropriate and only troops be furnished with provisions and punishment of sin, which the good sufreinforcements. I-addus answers that fer in common with the bad, as is the Persians are his masters; he dare certainly the case with the temporal afnot divert his trust. At this, the tem- flictions of this life; for that would be pestuous spirit of the conqueror be- treating the righteous and the wicked comes ungovernable, and he marches just alike. This a just and holy God

the occasion. While respecting the | must be in either body, mind or estate, | It was, be assured, a severe affliction authority to which his obedience is due, separately or together. It is not in to leave my good friends in North Cahis hellish wiles and lust? Who suffers sal here. It is highly probable that in most, the diabolical members of the a large majority of cases the reverse Inquisition, or the innocent victim they is the truth. But I confess, with sorhave stretched upon the rack, or bound row, that the evil I have mentioned is

Newbern, 1856.

vealed! How puny are all the works Christian forbearance could possibly of human skill, when in the dreadful sanction. presence of Him who only speaks and all things are done.

By sharp incisions."

concealed by its hoary mantle, and icy soul. Across the road stands Weyman bonds enchain the thousand sparkling Church, where Divine services are stamountain streamlets. Huge masses of tedly performed. How appropriate! snow barricade the streets, and for Learning the hand-maid of religion! many miles along the rail-way, the How sweetly and gently may they toil drifts, torn asunder by the snow-plough, on together, like Christiana and Mercy, reach above the car windows. A sleigh- and point the benighted, weary pilgrim ride of four miles formed an agreeable to the Eternal Home! finale to a trip of nearly one thousand | Though unknown to fame, this momiles. The night was clear and starry, dest institution has labored with honest of Poe came forcibly to my mind:

"Hear the sledges with the bells, Silver bells; What a world of merriment Their melody foretells ; How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, In the icy air of night, While the stars that oversprinkle All the heavens, seem to twinkle With a crystalline delight; Keeping time, time, time, In a sort of Runic rhyme, With the tintinnabulation

That so musically swells

Bells, bells, bells,"

From the bells, bells, bells, bells,

and, let us hope, entertainingly a fond body, for sinners are notalways diseas- rolina. I was entirely unaware how sffection for the hallowed places of the ed-suffering bodily pain. It is often numerous and how tender were the ties Euo. Harray: The following lines were city because of the fathers who were the case that very wicked men enjoy that had endeared them to my heart, written imprompts on the marriage of a dead, he is, nevertheless, fully impressfriend, and are submitted for publication withed with the fearful alternative which
Nor are the good exempt from disease
ved for severing them. Had circumhis decided course has left to the man and death. It is not in mind; for the stances favored, no happiness could of war. The High Priest sees no rock more man sins the harder becomes his have been greater than to cast my lot of refuge; his soul is troubled. What heart—the more deadened his moral permanently among them, and at once avails it that Nehemiah and Ezra had sensibilities—the more unfeeling his identify all my interests with them. tasked so much energy, striven with conscience, and the less mental suffer. Twelve months ago, the thought of so such enthusiasm and zeal to reconstruct ing he endures. Besides, the most soon leaving them, perhaps forever, the walls, if they are again to be lev- fearful element in the sinners remorse was farthest from my mind. A life elled with the plain. What the need of is the dread anticipation of future pun- within their hospitable borders seemed so many tears and supplications for the ishment; remove that, and he would then highly probable. It is delightful restoration of Jerusalem's vanished suffer but little. The penalty of crime to instruct the youth, and to impress

glory, if every heathen warrior is to is not suffered in the estate of the sin- upon their plastic, imitative minds, lesmake it an example of his savage valprosperous and honored. As the pure the aims to the noblest, sublimest objects. which the strong man bent the knee and person, mind nor condition of the sin- But how immeasurably is this pleasure sword and buckler lost their trustiness. ner in this life, it evidently is not suf- heightened, with each evidence, on The achievements and confidence of fered in this life at all. The fact is, their part, of an eagerness to learn, that time live only in the Jewish chron- the good here, frequently suffer more and a willingness to submit, without a icles—they dare not venture their in- than the wicked. Who suffers most, murmur, to such wholesome discipline terests in this quarter now. Is there the incendiary who lifts the flaming as may be necessary to accomplish so any avenue of safety disclosed to the torch, and sets a city on fire, or the in- grand an object. In the latter respect, troubled understanding of the High nocent, unsuspecting inhabitants, who the Southern boys and girls far surpass Priest? In the slumbers of the night escape from their burning homes with, our Yankee youngsters. In point of the God of Israel appears, and bids life, to find their all of worldly wealth scholarship, we of the North should him throw wide the gates; instruct him in flames or consumed by the fire ?- perhaps feel inclined to dispute the not to oppose his feeble arrow to a Who suffers most, the young man, who palm. But there is too much of that strength which would crush him; that in glee sips the sparkling wine, and execrable "Young America" conceit submission would be the best policy, spends his time in convival revels, or in the minds of our juveniles. To our is demonstrated in the temper of the his heart-broken parents, whose gray own doors this evil returns. We enman with whom he has to deal. Ac- hairs he is bringing down with sorrow courage it. The teacher is required cordingly, every idea of resistance is to the grave? Who suffers most, the to persuade, rather than coerce, and abandoned, and now is enacted a scene inebriate who drowns his sorrow in the the saucy youngster often stops to armore brilliant and imposing than in the wine-cup, and steeps his soul in the ob- gue and bandy words with him. If he palmiest days of the Temple. I-addus, livion of drunkenness, or his heart- attempts to correct the impropriety and arrayed in the splendid vestments of broken wife and beggard children ?- reward the urchin's impudence with a the Levitical priesthood, followed by Who suffers most the unprincipled lib- well-deserved castigation, it too frethe whole body of priests, clothed in ertine, who has strown his path-way quently happens that the parents take glistening white, proceeds with slow through life with wrecked virtue, des- the child's part, and, as a necessary and measured tread over a way literal- poiled innocence, faded beauty, and consequence, an end of good order imly fragrant with flowers, to the pres- blighted lovelines, or the despised, sor- mediately ensues. I do not admit that ence of the conqueror. Alexander be- row stricken, heart-broken victims of so unhappy a state of things is univer-

sent him from the spirit-land, declar- for an answer? With such facts before South, so far as my own experience ing that the God of armies should head us, are we not forced to the conclusion and observation entitle me to an opinthat this is not a state of retribution? ion, the case is very different. To such J. W. TUCKER. an extent has the important principle of respect and obedience toward superiors been inculeated, that, sooner than For the N. C. Christian Advocate. | violate it, even an unjust requisition on the teacher's part is often quietly ant to find on the incessant dissertion of the barbarous practice, once so prevalent, both North and South, of ocean." With what profound grati- applying the rod for every trifling detude is it meet to reflect upon the mer- reliction of duty. In my opinion, any cy of Him whose voice stills the tem- person whose talents, culture and napest, and speaks peace to the anxious tive dignity are unable to command mourner. A storm at sea! How un- personal respect sufficient to supersede,

speakably sublime a spectacle? How in a great majority of cases, any aid of awful and overpowering the eloquence corporal chastisement, is utterly unwith which Divinity speaks through the worthy to bear the honored name of sonorous winds and the thundering teacher. But I would most strenuously billows! The strongest, fleetest and contend for the right, in all extreme proudest of "gallant ships"-how in- cases, to employ, without any risk of significant a bauble, in that fearful interference, the severest mode of dishour, when the Almighty Arm is re-cipline which justice, humanity and

In connection with this subject, allow me to "speak a good word" for A somewhat chilling contrast with the Black Rock Academy, within your the balmy atmosphere and smiling sun- own State. The unmistakeable precishine of the "Old North State" was sion with which you have defined your presented, on my arrival here, in the position as a public journalist, devoted biting winds and shroud-like mantle of to the welfare and fame of North Cathese Yankee latitudes, the dynasty of Winter has not yet terminated. Truly, notice one of her most unpretending, The biting airs the shrinking flesh appal, yet wealthiest institutions. Its "local habitation" is in the upper part of In the neighborhood of New York, Brunswick County, about 22 miles from the traces of the grim old tyrant (more | Wilmington, and one or two from the despotic the past season than ever,) are | Cape Fear River. The building, which fast disappearing. The snow has left is new and commodious, stands embowthe side-walks, and, with the exception ered in a beautiful grove of young oaks. of some floating ice which obstructs the A spring of excellent water gushes up shipping, a genial, spring-like aspect from the earth a few yards from the begins to greet the eye. But as one door-a refreshing and fitting emblem approaches the vicinity of Hartford, of that Pierian fount whose classic wathe scene changes. The earth is still ters shall fully satisfy every thirsty

but the temperature stinging cold .- zeal in the noble cause of education, The road was finely trodden, over snow diffusing the wholesome leaven of its from three to five feet deep. A span influence through the entire community. of sleek, well-conditioned horses skim- For two years a female department has med over the ground like birds, and been successfully sustained, and several snugly nestled under a warm counter- of the ornamental branches taught .pane of buffalo robes, we seemed hard The Academy enjoys the enviable blessy to touch the earth, so swiftly and ing of a location among sober, honoradelightfully did we glide along the ble and Christian men. I love my old smoothly-worn track. The bells jin- patrons and friends with the sincerest gled a merry chorus, and the very woods affection. I desire their prosperity in and rocks and the keen air itself "seem- every enterprise which has in view high ed silent to listen." The musical lines and noble achievements. For the success of their worthy fester-daughterthe Black Rock Academy-my best wishes have long been enlisted, and for the truest honor and well-being of North

> M. E. W. ly pray. West Granby, Conn.

The Fayettville Presbytery holds its next meeting in the Grove Church at Kennansville Duplin County, begining on the 10th of A-

Carolina-for the peace, prosperity and

piety of her sons-I shall ever devout-

As a natural consequence, the gift band for everything. It was not long beof singing is not imparted to all; still, fore he began to neglect church, without it many who are deprived of that delight- was on some extraordinary occasion, and ful inflection of the voice are neverthe- then he took his seat away back youder, as less competent to judge when that a looker-on. Tom was a man for all. If branch of our church service is per- he was with a rigid sectarian, he always formed suitable to the occasion for had some preference for a part of his creed. which it is designed. In this age of If he was with a liberalist, he always con-

-Eph. 5th ch.-let our hearts always tirely upon circumstances where you found go with our lips. "It is a shocking profanation of divine worship to draw nigh to God with the lips while the leader, once said Tom reminded him of the little leather winged hat, in the great fabled war of the beasts and birds. When

ship to the praise and glory of the He took his seat on the outskirts of the

great I AM, 'tis mockery. Let those who sing remember that branch of our church service was not stand and commenced the services. After designed to excite the pleasing sensa- he had continued preaching a while, we tions of the sensual mind, but our sym- saw Tom begin to look around, to see if pathetic love and admiration for the there was any effect produced by the religion of the God of our salvation, speaker. He saw a great many bathed in There is a something of divinity in tears, and turned around and became a the truly devout hymn, that we can't profound listener himself. He kept drawgive utterance to. It is solemn, pensive, and penetrating, even to the captivation of soul—a something that stirs up, as by magic, the spiritual man, to a sense and consciousness of the Divine presence, and which strikes the as- God's infinite love, displayed in the resembled multitude with an awe of godly demption of the world; but anything else

Christian, let us have that kind of generally needed converting about twice singing in our church, and godly devo- a year. But, in our opinion, he often mis-

Wakefield, N. C.

For the N. C. Christian Advocate, Tom Stonyground.

biography even, while we feel fully sensi- who was noted for his picty and simplicity. ble of our incompetency to do them jus- Tom appeared by his actions to have entice, we propose to present your readers a tirely forgotten the camp-meeting. A few facts, which we have been so fortunate luck would have it, when the good man as to collect, concerning the above-men- announced his text, he had selected the tioned one, which we trust may prove a parable of the sower. He took up the source of gratifying interest to his nume- different classes, as presented by our Sarous relations, and mankind in general. viour, in such a plain and earnest manner,

stands before the world for himself, to go then proving to them they had miseonceivand hunt out the precise spot and day in ed the great object of going to the house which he was born, we deem it a subject of God, which produced a listlessness there, of little importance at present, presuming and a consequent result afterwards. But the reader seeks moral worth, and not when he came to "those who received the "dates and places." But whether he was seed on stony places," whether it was from born in the "Necks of Virginia" or the the exact manner in which he described Swamps of North Carolina," he was a Tom, or because he said something about late descendant of that ancient family of stony-ground hearers, we don't pretend to Stonygrounds which flourished as far back say; but we happened to east our eye toas the days of Christ, as we learn: Matt. wards where he was sitting, and lo! every 13, 5. Unlike the most of renowned men, son and daughter of them were staring every place seems to deny Tom a birth, right at Tom. About this time the preachwhile all admit he was born somewhere. er broke out at the top of his voice: But it is generally believed he was born a These people are doing the cause of God not far from the village Inconsideration, more harm than any other class in the which stands near the great thoroughfare world. They are representing religion as of Beelzebub's big-footed messengers, Evil a beautiful garment, only to be put on in Thinker and Evil Surmiser, &c. Strange revivals and big exmp-meetings, and to be to tell, tradition is very near silent con- laid aside whenever they go out into the cerning Tom's acts in early life. We can world. When a cloud passes over the only account for this by supposing he did church, they skulk away into some corner, not reach that "height of immortality" of or go out into the world and rail against some, whose childish sayings and doings it; but when it is prosperous, they are as must be handed down to posterity. Yet it bold as Peter when he cut off Malchus' ear. is confidently asserted he evinced, at an When the standard of the Cross is droopearly age, great instability of character.— He would cry bitterly for toys, which would know nothing of the man Jesus Christ; fail to satisfy him an hour, when they would but when it is planted in triumph they are be cast away and something else sought as ready to claim the victory. Such puffs of eagerly. Sometimes he manifested great air are an abhorrence to God! They are affection towards his parents, but soon he empty clouds, driven away by the first would become surly again, and go pouting passing breeze, to be blown back by the and muttering at everything he had to do. next. They are standing in the door of When a boy, he was sent to school, and on the temple of grace, to keep poor perishing the first day he professed great attachment sinners out. They are hanging out false to his teacher; studied his book like a man lights, to draw poor lost mariners on the for about a week, when suddenly he be- ocean of life in the breakers of hell. A came very tired, and "lay out" on the little objection to the preacher or some road the rest of the session. Before he member, gives them a distaste to all, and was eighteen years old, he had declared the cause of God besides." his intention to be of every profession in the whole catalogue of callings, but finally he concluded to follow nothing in particular. But as it chiefly enters into the present sketch to notice his religious character, the first time in his life he had the morif he had any such character at all, we will tification of supposing the preacher connow take that up. Tom was conceded by all to be a wicked and profane youth; and the older he grew the worse he got. He it as much as he did, and he did not inwas generally regarded perfectly indifferwas generally regarded perfectly indifferent to the salvation of his soul, until a great revival broke out in the neighborhood; and among the hundreds who professed, the Christians were agreeably surprised to find Tom among the number.—
He came forward just before the meeting He came forward just before the meeting closed, with a multitude of young and old, and joined the church. He soon began to attract the attention of everybody by his sake of his numerous relations, we forbear. overflowing zeal. He was almost foremost at the altar. He sang well, and seemed to have some little success in instruction. P. S. We should have said more, Mr. He would go out sometimes at the close of Editor, about Tom's family, but Uncle

"caught a Tartar." He seemed to have a shan't -harge him, you know.

progress, the art of singing is often temped the narrow and contracted views of made to conform to the whims of fancy, and, so far as the "Opera" is concerned, may assume all that fancy and fashion can invent to please. But, for Heaven's sake, when we go ed to be with scoffers, he would mock a lit up to the house of God, to sing praises the too, after a while. And it is said by to His holy name, let us tune our voices some who ought to know, that when a maife by that kind mentioned by St. Paul ber enough to tell of it. It depended en

That kind of singing so often heard his cars, and stick out his head, and strut in congregations, by persons trying to out a beset; but when the birds were triimitate those who may be termed sci- umphant, he would sail around among the entific warblers, may be compared to winged tribe. We had the pleasure of the Pharisee who prayed-want to be seeing Tom, once or twice, in our life .heard for their fine singing. Such The first time was on a great comp-meetmelody would harmonize with the "Ao. ing occasion. I don't think he reached lian Minstrel," but as devotional wor, the ground until 11 o'clock on Subbath.

congregation, with an air of skeptical indifference. The Presiding Elder, who was he did not seem to fancy. It is said Tom.

F. took the voice of nature for the voice of God, shed a few tears, and imagined he was a perfect Christian, when he was a stranger to godly sorrow and saving faith. He was sometimes in the church and some-Mr. Editor: You no doubt have read when he ought to have been out. The sand heard a great deal in your life of the bond consciounds was 16 present there, The exact time and place of Tom's birth that he soon gained the attention of every is rather a matter of dispute. As none body. He passed over the way-side hearbut the curious would pass by a man as he ers, by giving a general description of them;

During these burning remarks, poor Tom

Myrtleboro', N. C.

a warm sermon, into the congregation, and Pious takes your paper. But from the best lay hold on sinners, as if he would drag of information, the "Stonygrounds" and them up in spite of them. Some of the "Grtpes" are closely connected. We good old sisters soon began to whisper it hope Uncle Pious wont be offended at us, about, "Tom was to be a preacher." But because we have told the truth about his unfortunately for Tom, the revival soon cousin Tom-and didn't tell near all bedied away, and before six months the breth- sides. But he had better keep still, or we

\$1 50 a Year, in Advance.

For the N. C. Christian Advocate. | ren were mortified in finding they hall will write his life before he day. But I

# For the N. C. Christian Advances.

Imagination. It is a trite observation, that we are prone to anticipate better things than we are re-

alize. The season of youth is especially characterized as one of hopes, golden indeed, but delusive, of visions gargers, indeed, but fallacious. All ages are like wise subject, in a greater or less degree, to these freaks of the imagination. Fancy a pensil is ever busy painting pictures of beauty and excellence and loveliness more purport than ever existed on our sphere. They seem indeed constituted of elements of possibility and even of plansibility; last our expectations are so repeatedly foiled, that tany unsemmerical with reality, we are ever prone to extremes, and porhaps in this conclusion we also exhibit this common propensity. Perhaps there is more of real ty in these pictures that have so often decived us, then we are willing to solmit-Imagination is defined to be "an unreal combination of real things." The elements of these pictures are then roof, and it is only the combination that is unreal -There is strong ground, therefore, to look that the combination also will eventually be realized. If this be so, is there not good reason to hope that, in present of time, the brightest pictures imagination can frame will be realized? And if this he

so, what a lesson of consolation does this glorious faculty of the mind teach! The history of human progress very foreibly illustrates this subject, and would seem to declare that no device of the laagination can be too wild to be born into a real existence. If we could suppose the achievements of the combined efforts of mind and heart and hand that new er hellish the condition of the human race, to be narrated to one of the older time, we should see him struck with deepest wonder. So, we may be sure, a future generation will exhibit results of progress which, if made known to us, would be equally startling Imagination darts forward and fills the future with pictures of ideal happiness and glory, only to be succeeded by the surfootsteps of progress to animate them with life and clothe them with reality; and men the platform thus reised she spread bur wings for a still bolder flight, to be apported again by a new fulfilment of her wildest dreams. Thus, from age, imagination is gaining strength for sublinear excursions, and progress is continually receiving new accelerations in geometrical ratio, until, in contemplating this grand ment shall cease. The wide field of lands ity opens to our bewildered vision and alia loses the theatre upon which the busmind is ever to net. Only a small portion of this endless drams can be viewed by us during the short space of the present life. The remainder must be seen from a different stand-point, but not less clearly and

If imagination can startle us with her conceptions even while cumbered with the clogs of mortality, and progress can realize those conceptions even amidst the family of this life, what results may we not not cipate in another sphere during the roll of ceaseless ages! "Eye hath not seen, ter hath not heard, neither hath it entered luto the heart of man, to conceive the things which God bath prepared for them that

## For the N. C. Christian Advances. Is it not So?

Of the several religious papers I have read for the last few months, almost overy number has had an article, by some our, on the subject of

CLASS MEETINGS;

and in almost every article the sentiment is expressed, that "class-meetings are fast declining; that old-fashioned Christianity is waning; that the church is locing her power." But we are inclined to think, from the amount of writing on the subect, that there is yet much class meeting eligion in the church. Of course there s not enough, and perhaps never has been. But, then, we must believe that the disponding classes and werabers are too of ondiscouraged by gloomy forebodings and apprehensive predictions. A great part of the church would be bettered by having faith and hope increased, instead of being harrowed up by pictures of the exils it our midst. It is suggested that our ceil forebodings be mentioned less to the populace, and more to those who are able to correct them; to the heads of the church, in our annual and quarterly conferences. Let greater efforts be made to keep the centre of our church system alive to the mility of class-meetings.

When I hear one speaking positively and elaborately of the church's sins, without giving her due credit for her excellences, I fear he is either growing were of well-doing, or that he is displaying his own comprehension at the expense of his weaker brethren. Because we see some things that should be corrected, are we to suppose the church is growing less pure? Perhaps it had defects when we first knew it: but then we admired its excellences. Let us continue to do so, and with as little parade as possible, endesvor to counterset all evil tendencies. Many of us still enjoy the class-room. Let us lend a strongth ening hand and a sympathizing heart to those who may now be weighed down, desponding, and perhaps sinning. The time may come when they will be strong and we shall be under the cloud. Then we may feel how good and how profitable it is to bear each other's burdens without repreach. IVEL SENIORA.

April 4, 1856. The right spirit.-En.

Insune Asylum .- This Institution is now ready for the reception of forty additional