

The Sabbath Recorder.

WESTLEY, N. Y., FIFTH-DAY, JAN. 14, 1869. GEORGE B. UTZER, EDITOR.

RETROSPECTION.

The past is a subject of interest to all who will reflect; and we must conclude, from the very nature of mind, that all men do reflect more or less. There is something in the human soul, which we call memory, that will often recall the past of our lives.

IMAGES OF THE DIVINE BEING.

I wish to thank Bro. Tomlinson for replying to my queries in regard to the prohibition of the second commandment; yet he does not meet my difficulty. He says, "All representation of God, by painter or sculptor, really hinders, although it might be designed to help, the minds of men forming an exalted conception of the true God."

Can anything be right, per se, when its "inevitable tendency" is to sin? Is not the quality of every tree proved by the quality of its fruit? If "the inevitable tendency" of such representations is to idolatry, then must not the inevitable tendency of such representations, be to idolatry also? Is it not, in fact, the very fountain head from which all idolatry proceeds?

So much about manufacturing. Now about the church, society, and meeting-house. We must admit of a great improvement, externally; but whether there is as much improvement internally and spiritually, may be a question.

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PLAINFIELD is situated about sixty minutes from Broadway, New York, by the New Jersey Central Railroad, after crossing the ferry. The place needs no praise, as to its beauty and pleasantness, to those who have visited it of late; but to those not acquainted with it, we would say, that we think it can be excelled in beauty by only a very few towns of its size in the United States; and if any one desires a pleasant location, and a chance to invest money by way of improvements, this is just the place for him to locate.

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world," which was followed by a conference meeting. At a business meeting, Sunday morning, it was voted to hold the next meeting with the church at DeRuyter, commencing on the Sixth-day before the last Sabbath in February, at 2 o'clock P. M.

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organ, which tax amounts to \$107. The floating debt of the church is \$1,000. The debt of the Deibel Mission was the exception of \$3,750, the mortgage on the ground has been paid. The total indebtedness of the church, including the latter mortgage, in round figures, is \$36,000. The Treasurer stated that the entire running expenses of the church proper for the present year would be between \$25,000 and \$27,000. Resolutions were passed by the meeting appropriating \$11,000 for the payment of the floating debt of the Mission, and \$5,000 for running expenses of the year. There was considerable discussion between the members upon the propriety of increasing the appropriation for music from \$4,000 to \$6,000, and the whole subject was finally laid on the table.

Can anything be right, per se, when its "inevitable tendency" is to sin? Is not the quality of every tree proved by the quality of its fruit? If "the inevitable tendency" of such representations is to idolatry, then must not the inevitable tendency of such representations, be to idolatry also? Is it not, in fact, the very fountain head from which all idolatry proceeds? Would any one ever have thought of representing God by an image, if he had not first pictured out such images in his mind? Murder would never have been committed, had it not first been conceived in the heart; and Christ tells us that it possesses the same sinful quality before it is acted out as afterward. Now, if he who "hates his brother is a murderer," without literally committing the deed, then is not he an idolater, who bows in worship to a mental image of Deity, as well as he who bows before the same or a similar image made tangible? Would God have forbidden the act of murder or idolatry, if he approved of men's entertaining the thoughts and feelings in their hearts which "inevitably tend" to the commission of such deeds? And would it be safe for us to take regard to these, that "the danger seems not so much in the mental image, as in the outward embodiment." Since Christ has taught us that the mental image or conception is the very essence of the crime? Again, says Bro. T., "There is danger in the attempt to make the human mind go contrary to the laws of its own being in thinking of God. The result might be Atheism, or, what is not much better, the Deity of transcendentalism." Am I to understand from this, that Bro. T. supposes that the second commandment requires what is contrary to the laws of mind, or that God here forbids men, under pain of eternal condemnation, to act out what he justifies them in thinking and feeling, and what he has rendered impossible for men to avoid thinking and feeling, by the laws of mind which he has implanted within them? I conceive it to be as difficult for a fallen being to love those who hate and abuse him, as it is to think of a Divine Spirit without giving him shape and outline. And shall we say, therefore, that "there is danger in the attempt to make the human mind go contrary to the laws of its own being," in requiring him to feel so contrary to the natural and universal promptings of the human heart? N. W. WEST HALLOCK, ILL., Dec. 29, 1868.

While reading an article from the pen of your Rockville correspondent, in which he speaks of some who have the impression that "Rockville is a little out of the world," I was reminded of a remark that old Elder Satterlee made, when met by a young man in Stephentown, N. Y., some thirty-five years ago. Said he to the young man, "Where do you live?" "At Yawgook, R. I.," was the prompt reply. The old man was a stammerer, as all who knew him will remember, and the way that he stammered out his answer made an impression on the young man's mind, that many years will not erase. Said the old man, "What a mistake the people made in settling in Yawgook! Why, the Lord had no idea of that part of the world being inhabited by human beings when he created it. The Lord made it only to glow with fire for the other parts of the world." But when we read of Rockville, and the rapid strides the people are making in improvements, we think the old man, although a divine, made a greater mistake in regard to the Lord's intentions than the people who settled there.

Attendance upon, or attention to, the ordinary means of grace, is hopefully on the increase. One person, a middle-aged lady, recently united with the church by baptism. It is a time of prevailing health. The pastor preached his first anniversary sermon on Sabbath, Jan. 2d. His settlement dates from April 1st, 1868. Since that time, he reports as follows: Number of sermons preached, 75; pastoral visits, 171; funerals attended, 7; marriages solemnized, 7.

An interesting Sabbath School celebration was held in the 1st-Sabbath-day Baptist Church of Verona, on Christmas Eve, consisting of Scripture recitations, scenes in Bible history illustrated on the stage, and tableaux, well calculated to impress upon all the importance of a thorough knowledge of that Holy Book, from which lessons of the highest excellence are to be drawn. A donation visit was made by the people of the 1st Verona church and

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