



The Sabbath Recorder.

New York, March 11, 1852.

"FOREKNOWLEDGE."

Reply to Bro. Hull—See First Page.

It is all-important to this controversy to arrive at some just notion of free agency.

But Bro. H. seems to think it essential to liberty, not only that one should have the power to follow the inclination which he actually possesses, but that he should originate the inclination itself.

King David walks upon the roof of his house at even-tide, and, casting his eye in a certain direction, beholds Bathsheba washing herself.

But Bro. H. is not willing to allow that volition is caused—that it is an effect—least responsibility should be destroyed.

Strictly speaking, however, responsibility cannot be predicated of either cause or effect, but only of the intelligent personal agent who wills and acts.

The expression "freedom of the will," is used by our correspondent. Whether he admits the strict propriety of the expression, we do not know; but he says, "The Calvinist answers that the will is free, when it is not forced."

into the nature of liberty. He who goes beyond this, to inquire wherein the freedom of the will consists, chases an ignis fatuus.

The idea that "volition is not an effect, but an independent cause, is one which does not credit to our brother's philosophy.

But let us look a little further along in our correspondent's article. He thinks, that we "might just as well predicate responsibility of human volitions when these volitions are the result of physical force, as to predicate responsibility of them when the self-determining power is denied."

But "if it can be shown that the results would be changed, whether you apply physical or moral influence, provided you take away the self-determining power of the will," Bro. H. would be "glad to see it."

The paragraph which, for convenience of reference, we have marked (A.) is one which, we should suppose, was written for effect rather than argument, did we not conceive of our brother as too honest to avail himself of such an artifice.

But if the connection between the event and the Divine foreknowledge of it is absolutely perfect, it cannot be rendered more perfect. So that here is a "full and fixed connection"

In our issue of Jan. 22d, we said, (alluding to the act of the Jews in crucifying the Saviour,) that "there was no other kind of necessity for the act, except that which was requisite to make the connection between the act and God's foreknowledge of it absolutely perfect; that this connection was absolutely perfect, infallible, and indissoluble; and that if a decree be added to the foreknowledge, it does not increase or strengthen the connection; it does not render it more infallible, or indissoluble."

Nevertheless, according to his principles, God eternally foresees this state of things. He foresees that some would continue in rebellion, while others would prove good and faithful servants, and be received into life eternal.

On the words necessity, must, must needs, &c., as employed in certain passages which we quoted to show the Scripture usage of the terms, our correspondent quotes Mr. Cruden, who says, that the terms "do not always denote an absolute necessity, but a necessity of decency, or of duty," &c.

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The term contingency—our correspondent "does not mean by it an event which takes place without a cause, but an event which has a cause, and that cause free volition."

NEW MOVEMENT FOR SUNDAY.

A few years ago, the advocates of coercive laws to secure the closing of canal Locks and the stopping of railroad trains on Sunday, sought to promote this object by holding conventions, making speeches, and passing resolutions.

In some of the State Legislatures, however, there is more encouragement for the Sunday coercionists. Accordingly, we learn that they are busily at work there.

TIDINGS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES.

Their Health—Death of Mrs. Shack—Opening of the Chapel—An Illustration of Healthfulness.

[From a Letter of N. Gardner, Shanghai, China, Dec. 18, 1851.]

As a family, we have never enjoyed so good health and spirits in China as at present.

The wife of Rev. J. L. Shuck, of the Southern Baptist Mission, died on the 21st of November, leaving an infant. She was a woman of uncommon worth, and a zealous missionary.

On the 22d of November we opened the new Chapel for the public ministry of the word, with encouraging prospects.

Before I close I must not omit to give you one specimen of heathenism which has just come under our observation. On the 14th inst., about one o'clock, my teacher came in, saying that an infant had been thrown out near our yard, which was still alive.

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TOO DEEP TO BE FATHOMED.

Zophar, one of Job's friends, says, "Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is high as heaven, what canst thou do? deeper than hell, what canst thou know?"

Some of the truths of revelation seem simple and plain, and yet some of the wise of this world stumble upon them to their ruin. In the simple statements of divine truth, there is a solemnity and grandeur which engages the attention and fixes the thoughts of angels.

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been, perfectly known to Him? Who can read the 139th Psalm without coming to such a conclusion? And if man is an intelligent being, capable of moral actions, who can escape the conclusion, that he must be responsible to his Maker?

THE NORTH-WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

We are indebted to A. W. Coon, one of the clerks of the Seventh-day Baptist North-Western Association, for the statistics of the churches composing that body, and an abstract of the minutes of its fifth anniversary.

The meeting was held with the Church in Christiana, Dane Co., Wisconsin, on the 1st, 2d, 3d, and 5th days of October, 1851. Eld. Samuel Davison preached the opening discourse. The Moderator was Eld. Samuel Davison, and the Clerks were A. W. Coon and Wm. M. Clarke.

Report on the State of Religion. The Committee on the State of Religion report, that many tokens of grace and mercy have been manifested, not only in the revival of some of our churches, but also in the conversion of sinners.

STATISTICS OF THE CHURCHES.

Milton—Varnum Hull, pastor; Stillman Coon, Dan'l Babcock, and Richard C. Bond, elders; Wm. H. Redfield, licentiate; L. H. Bond, deacon. Post-office, Milton, Rock Co., Wis. Added 78, dismissed 5, deceased 3, total members 180.

Albion—James Weed, licentiate; J. A. Potter, J. Weed, S. Burdick, P. C. Main, deacons. Post-office, Albion, Dane Co., Wis. Rejected 1, dismissed 4, total members 86.

Walworth—O. P. Hull, pastor. A. Maxson, Wm. S. Clarke, deacons. Post-office, Walworth, Walworth Co., Wis. Added 10, total members 24.

Mission to Terra del Fuego.—Intelligence has been received by the Patagonian Mission Society, of the death of a party of seven persons, namely, Capt. Gardner, Mr. Williams, (a surgeon of Buenos Ayres), Mr. Maidment, three seamen, and a ship's carpenter, who sailed from Liverpool on the 7th of September, 1850, to attempt to establish a mission at Terra del Fuego.

TRIBUTE TO MOUNT VERNON.

From my Private Journal.

Having weighed anchor at the mouth of the Potomac, our gallant steamer was rapidly wending her way to the seat of the American Government. As she approached the city, the eyes of more than two hundred of her passengers and crew were directed towards the ancient residence and present resting-place of the "Father of his Country."

As we passed and viewed the half-concealed obelisks which mark the spot of his earthly rest, our numerous company, with heads uncovered, stood in silence; the colors, which hitherto had waved gaily at the peak, took a half-subdued position; and the ponderous wheels suddenly ceased to exert their usual energy, as if conscious duty imposed a muffled silence.

Exposing Goods on Sunday.—In the Assembly of New York, on Sixth-day, March 5, Mr. Van Santvoord, Chairman of the Committee to whom the petition of S. Bently and others, asking for an amendment of the law so that persons who keep the Seventh Day or Saturday as holy time may expose goods for sale on Sunday, reported adversely to the prayer of the petitioners, and the report was agreed to.

Literary Institutions in the United States.—There are in the United States not less than 207 colleges proper, 43 theological, 17 law, and 27 medical schools. Out of the aggregate, Pennsylvania has 21—consisting of 8 colleges, 7 theological, 2 law, and 4 medical schools. The number of volumes contained in the libraries of the colleges, exclusive of those in the professional schools, is, as far as estimated by imperfect returns, 871,800.

A Relic.—At a recent conference of Churches in Groton, Mass., the identical Bible used by John Rogers, the martyr, and carried by him to the stake—some of the leaves of which bear the marks of the flames—was brought to the conference by a descendant of the martyr.

Dedication at Milton, Wis.—The Seventh-day Baptists at Milton, Rock Co., Wisconsin, have recently completed a meeting-house, which cost some \$2000. The dedication services were appointed to be held on the 26th of February.

The Legislature of Vermont, at its recent session, enacted a law forbidding the employment of conductors, engineers, brakemen, or switchmen, "who shall make use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage." If any Company within the State fail to comply with the requirements of the law, they are liable to a prosecution, and a fine of from \$300 to \$3,000.

While Calvin Fairbanks has been convicted at Louisville, Ky., of stealing negroes, and been sentenced to an imprisonment of fifteen years, George Alberti, for stealing a free negro, and selling him into slavery, gotten years; and this was regarded as monstrous by some.

Three hundred prisoners in the State Prison at Charlestown, Mass., have petitioned the Legislature to pass the Maine Liquor Law. There are now 402 convicts in the institution. Upward of fifty convicts in the New York prisons had always been total abstinence men.

The people of Indiana are petitioning their Legislature for the passage of a law which shall provide that the wife, and all others injured by the sale of intoxicating liquors, may maintain an action against the vendor who furnishes the liquor.

The Liquor bill before the Massachusetts Senate has been amended so as to submit the question of its adoption to a direct vote of the people, and in that form it will probably pass. Better so than worse.

Intolerance gives way by degrees; Jews and Christians are now allowed to intermarry in Hamburg, a thing the bare proposal of which would have shocked all Europe two centuries, nay, half a century ago.

A leading medical practitioner at Brighton, England, has lately given a list of sixteen cases of paralysis produced by smoking, which came under his own knowledge, within the last six months.

Captain Sir Edward Belcher is spoken of as likely to take command of the new searching expedition to the Arctic regions, which is to be dispatched to those seas by the British Government.

The Methodists at the West are moving in favor of a Branch of the Book Concern in Chicago. There is now but one branch establishment in the West, at Cincinnati. The Methodist Churches in the North-West are increasing rapidly.

The venerable Dr. Maclay, of this City, now seventy-four years of age, was at Jackson, Miss., on the 9th ult., engaged in the business of the American Bible Society. For the last fifteen years the Dr. has made semi-annual visits to Mississippi.

The late Michael Allen, of Pittsburg, has left \$25,000 to missionary and other purposes connected with the Presbyterian Church, and \$4,000 to the American Tract Society.

The Mississippi Senate has passed a Bill to prevent the introduction of slaves into that State for sale.

Frazer, the Artist, died last week, at the residence of his daughter in New Bedford, at the age of sixty years.



