

Religious Department

Rev. J. W. MALCOLM, Editor.

PRAYER A KEY.

1. Prayer is a key, because it opens the door of the knowledge of God. None spiritually understand the character and glory of God but such as go to Him to be enlightened.

2. Because it opens the door of self-knowledge. It is a light which I wish to examine, so I bring my dark heart into light when I go to God in prayer.

3. Prayer opens the glories of the natural world to the soul. A prayerless man does not see one in a thousand of the beauties of nature; and what he does see he does not enjoy, as do the spiritually minded.

4. Prayer is a key, because it opens the way for our clearest and most delightful conceptions of heaven. It gives us harmony of spirit with the inhabitants, employments, and joys of the kingdom above, and thus we can better understand everything said about that blessed world.

The key that can turn back so many bolts, and open so many doors, and put people in possession of so many blessings, can be had by any mortal willing to take the pains to procure it.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Persons at a distance are surprised to learn that the Third Congregational church of San Francisco is in great unrest and trouble over a new phase of the Chinese question. It would appear that sundry Chinamen have not only been evangelized, but converted through the labors of some of the zealous ones of the church—a state of things which others of the same church had not counted upon.

The Council of the Propagation of the Faith has just sent large donations of money to England. During the year 1871 France contributed to the society £140,000; the rest of Christendom £60,000. The income of the society is within £5000 of what it was before the war.

A Jewish commission sent out from New York to Jerusalem, has returned, and given to the public a report of what they saw. In speaking of this, the Jewish Times says that it "is an additional argument against the folly of encouraging the emigration of the Jews to a country which has no other claim than that of a venerable monument of the past."

The Hebrew Christian Witness of London says that the Rev. Isaac Hellmet, Episcopal Bishop of Huron, was born of Jewish parents, and that he is the second bishop of that church of Hebrew birth. The other one was Bishop Alexander, of Jerusalem, who died in 1846.

Many persons mistake enlarged selfishness for unselfishness. They are ready to make almost any personal sacrifice for their own family and intimate friends, but beyond that narrow circle their sympathies do not go.

THE POPE'S SUCCESSOR.

I. D. R. COLLINS, Editor.

THE PLOUGH, SPADE AND HOE.

The following song was written for the (Hingham Agricultural and Horticultural Society). The farmer's chief of the nation, How best beyond others the nation, From want and from envious free!

When summer in beauty is glowing, With fresh, early morn'g's away, And skillful guides be the mowing, Or toas the sweet-scented hay;

It is satisfactory to see this claim asserted, and we hope that it will, when the time comes, be exercised. It will be the fitting answer of Europe to the Jesuit claim of the supremacy of the church over the state.

A SUPPLEMENT, NOT A SUBSTITUTE.

It has been maintained by some that the Sabbath school interferes with duties which belong exclusively to the parents, or that it is, as one has sharply defined it, "a mischievous busybody in other men's matters."

Peaches are too frequently gathered before attaining full size, and when this is the case we need not expect good flavor. They must obtain this requisite before gathering; although it is not necessary to delay picking until very melon.

As a general rule, all small fruits are gathered too early; and as high color is not a sign of maturity, many inexperienced fruit growers are misled. Never pick strawberries because they are red, nor blackberries solely on account of their dark appearance.

Success at last.—A Sabbath school teacher had taught a class of boys for years. At last his health failed him, and he must die. The thought of leaving his large class of boys unconverted, and about to enter into manhood, was more than he could bear.

Renovating soils by fire.—In England, land is often renovated by what is known as "paring and burning." It is mainly applicable to land containing much vegetable substance, and is performed by taking up the top surface to a depth of two inches with a spade, and placing the layer in edgewise pieces, so that it may become air-dried.

Agricultural Department

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similar may be profitably tried upon reclaiming swamps, by skimming the surface with a plow until the tufts of grass roots and the like can be raked out.—These should be burned in heaps under as much of the soil as the slow fire will bear, and the ashes together distributed upon the surface.

HAVE YOU GOOD WATER FOR CATTLE?—Have you, reader, provided good drinking water for your live stock, especially for your milch cows? If not, why? Cattle and horses as much prefer good pure water for drinking as you yourselves do.

We were informed, a few days ago, of a milk producer whose cows have no other water to drink than that obtained from a filthy mud-hole in a swamp. Now it cannot be supposed that cows that are compelled to drink such filthy water can make as much and as good milk as cows that are furnished with good clear, pure spring or brook water.

We have to say, in conclusion, that if you have not pure, good water for your live stock, then let it be your first business to provide for it. Your cows and other stock all need plenty of good water to drink at this season, at all seasons of the year.

BE CAREFUL.—You cannot be too careful about your farming machinery. Already we have heard of two accidents by which men have lost limbs in threshing machines, and we sound the alarm in time to save others.

FALL PLOWING.—I often notice articles recommending fall ploughing for heavy soils, and occasionally complaints of it having been tried with poor success. I always find fall ploughing beneficial when done early enough in the season to rot the sod, but never turn a sod late in the fall, intending to plough again in the spring; in fact, for most crops a good cultivating in the spring is better than ploughing, if well ploughed and subsoiled in the fall.

SAVE YOUR CLOVER SEED.—We have been informed, says the Franklin Patriot, that one of the largest and most enterprising farmers of this country, last year, saved enough clover seed for his own sowing, sold enough to pay for all the dry goods used in his family, and received 25 dollars cash in addition.

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The Chicago Journal of Wednesday says that the amount of grain in store in that city is 3,896,985 bushels of wheat, 2,416,093 bushels of corn, 520,931 bushels of oats, 115,390 bushels of rye, and 100,169 bushels of barley.—The supply of grain at the principal lake and seaboard points and in transit, Aug. 10, was 19,532,376 bushels, embracing 2,127,921 bushels of wheat, 11,963,649 bushels of corn, 5,157,101 bushels of oats, and 283,705 bushels of

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